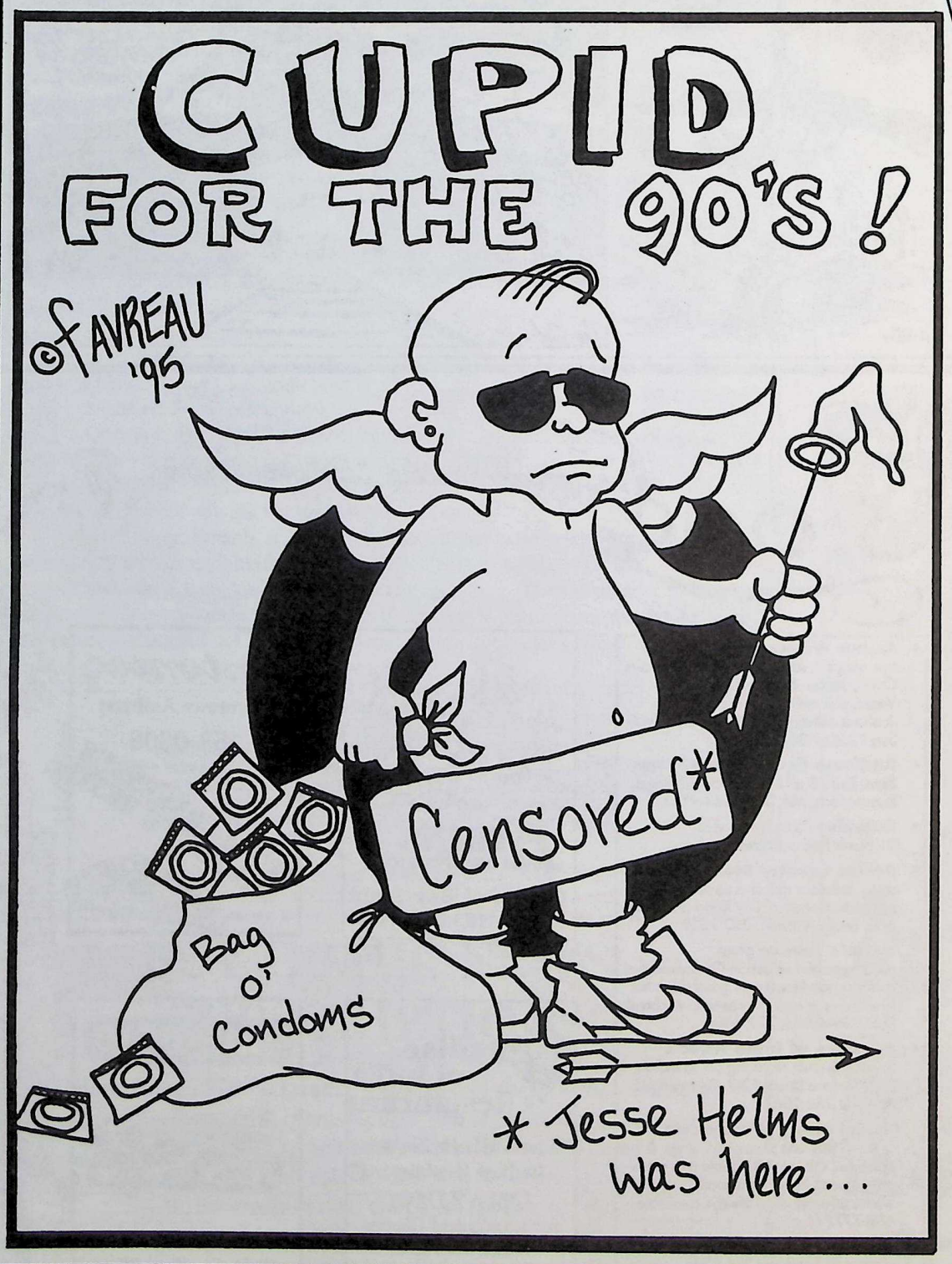
EPISODE #127
February 9 , 1995

The Valley "COMIC" NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

BOOKENDS
BEYOND POLITIX
GENERAL WELFARE, PRIVATE LIVES
FRESHLY-SQUEEZED JUICE
USA TODAY



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CALVIN & HOBBES,
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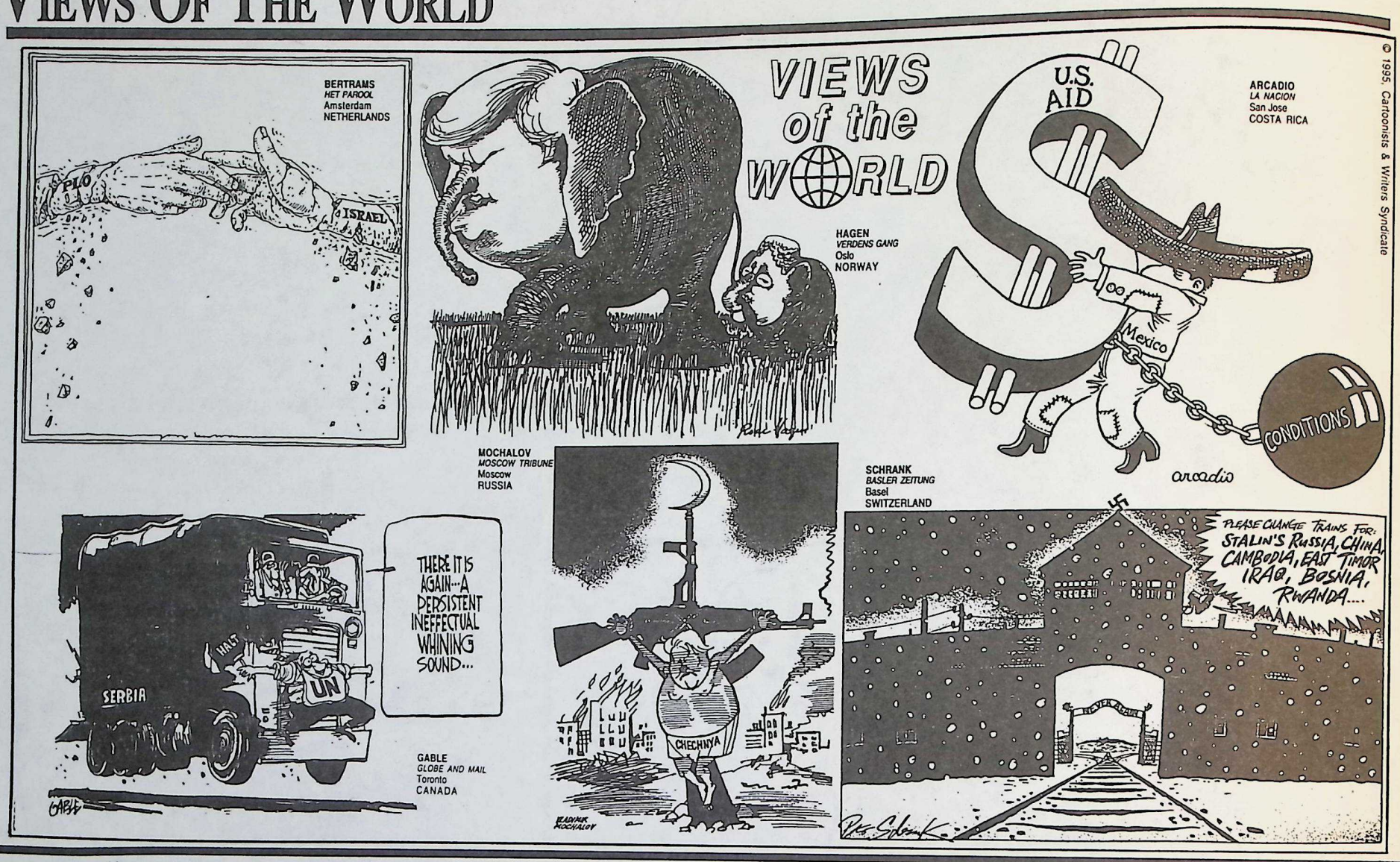
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK

FREE · FREE · FREE · FREE

VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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Potatoes Peaches Plums Cherries Strawbe

Food

Asparagus Broccoli Cauliflower Eggplant Lemons Apples Pecans Raisins Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery Green Beans Cucumbers Zucchini Walnuts Grapes Watermelon Chillis Sweet Corn Bananas Oranges Mushrooms Oregano

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Dancing Friday & Saturday

Amber Waves
ASIAN NOODLES, DOSAS, AND MORE
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- **Amber Waves** Serving noodle stir-frys, soups & salads from Southeast Asia, China, Japan, & India dosas. Vegetarian options always available. Amherst delivery, Mon-Sat 11:30-10:00, Sun 12:30-9:30. 253-9200
- **Andiamo** Serving dinner daily from 5pm. Exit 28 off I-91 Huckle Hill Road, Bernardston, MA (413) 648-9107
- **Antonios** Pizza by the slice. 31 North Pleasant Street, Amherst
- **Atkins Country Store** Fresh produce, delicious deli and scratch bakery products. Corner of Bay Road and Route 116, South Amherst, 253-9528
- **Horn's** There's a great restaurant and saloon in Greenfield that features good food and good drink for lunch, dinner and in-between. Mohawk Mall, Greenfield, 772-6300
- **Paradise of India** A special Sunday Brunch featuring South Indian food Masala Dosai 12-3 87 Main St., Amherst 256-1067
- **Pizza Factory** Where you can always "Buy one pizza, pick it up, & get one free" OR we will donate it to someone in need in our community! Whole wheat or white drust always available. 584-7777
- **Subway** Subs & salads. 4 Main St., Amherst 256-1919

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SUBWAY
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

Today's column has been preempted for the following important infomercial, whose contents do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

Announcer: Whenever you're stuck in rush hour, bumper-to-bumper traffic, do you believe the other two lanes *always* move faster than the one you're in?

Do your co-workers continually win $50, $100, $400 on scratch tickets, and all *you've* ever gotten is a free ticket?

In short, do you continually feel like overwhelming forces are *conspiring against you* — to smack you upside the head every time you turn around?

Well, my friends, maybe it's time to *do* something about that feeling. Maybe it's time to do what thousands have done — join The Conspiracy Club. That's right — The Conspiracy Club. It's the *only* club dedicated to the proposition that everyone in the world is conspiring against *you, and you alone.*

Sound crazy? Well, you might not think so after you listen in on this transcript of an actual phone conversation with a satisfied Conspiracy Club Member:

Member (dials 411): Hello, Information? I want ....

Operator: I *know* what you want, Martin.

Member: Excuse me?

Operator: Yes, I'm very aware of your wants, Martin Kuzmeskis, 77 Pulaski Terrace, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Member (indignantly): Where'd you get this information?

Operator: You *dialed* Information, Martin. *Thank you* for dialing 411. And thank you for having two lovely children — Kevin and Tiffany — at St. Stanislaus grade school.

Member: Who *is* this, *really?*

Operator: And thank you for having a good-looking wife — Carol — who is currently having an affair with a co-worker at Burwitz Steel and Wire, where she works first shift.

Member: Now, just a ....

Operator: And thank you for revealing this — and *other* interesting information — to Father Walt in the confessional, and to your therapist, Norman Griswold, *and* to your neighbor, Phil LeRoux, of 85 Pulaski Terrace.

Member: (whimper)

Operator: Martin, do you remember the night before last, when you thought the wind was blowing pine cones onto your roof?

Member: (hyperventilating)

Operator: That was The Conspiracy Club, Martin, *tossing* pine cones onto your roof. We just wanted to welcome you as a member, and to let you know we look forward to many, many years of satisfying your conspiracy needs. And Martin — your wife will be *really* surprised if you ask her to show you her tattoo.

Announcer: Friends, it's as easy as that. If you believe the relentless buffeting the world doles out is anything *but* random ... if you're convinced each of life's hard knocks has *your* name on it, then don't delay another minute. Join The Conspiracy Club, and let us entrap you every month in an increasingly bizarre and byzantine conspiracy, like the one you've just witnessed. For a 30-day trial membership, simply dial 1-800-WATCH-U. The Conspiracy Club. You *may* already have joined.

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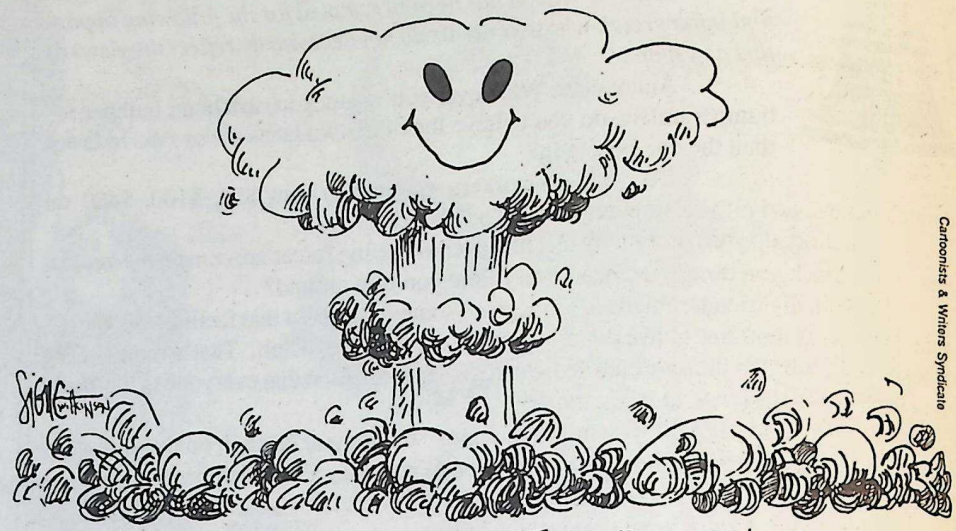

AMERICAN LEGION-APPROVED ATOMIC BOMB EXHIBIT

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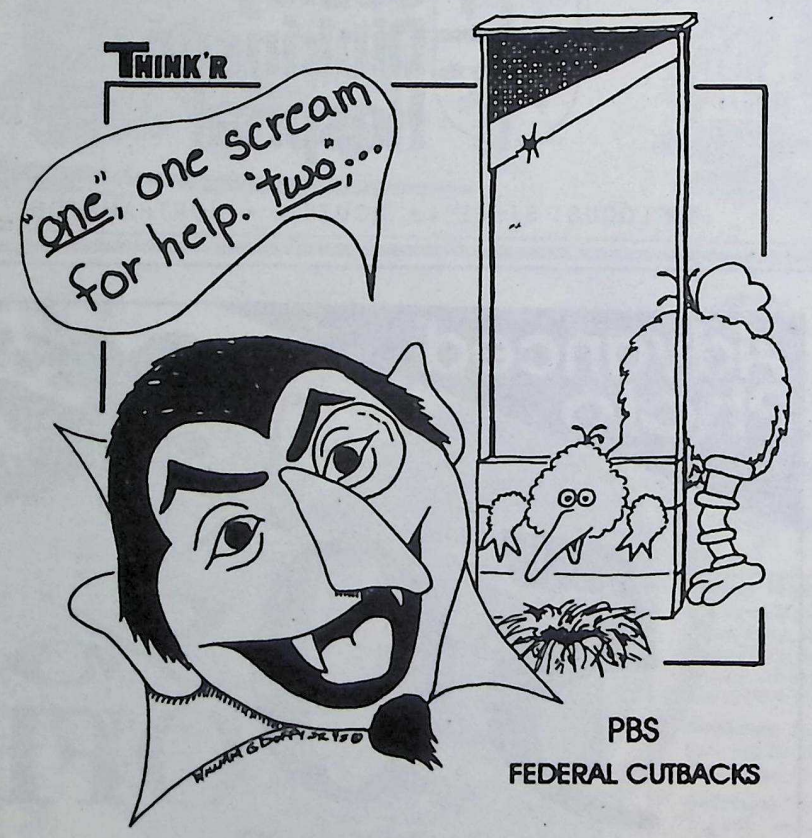
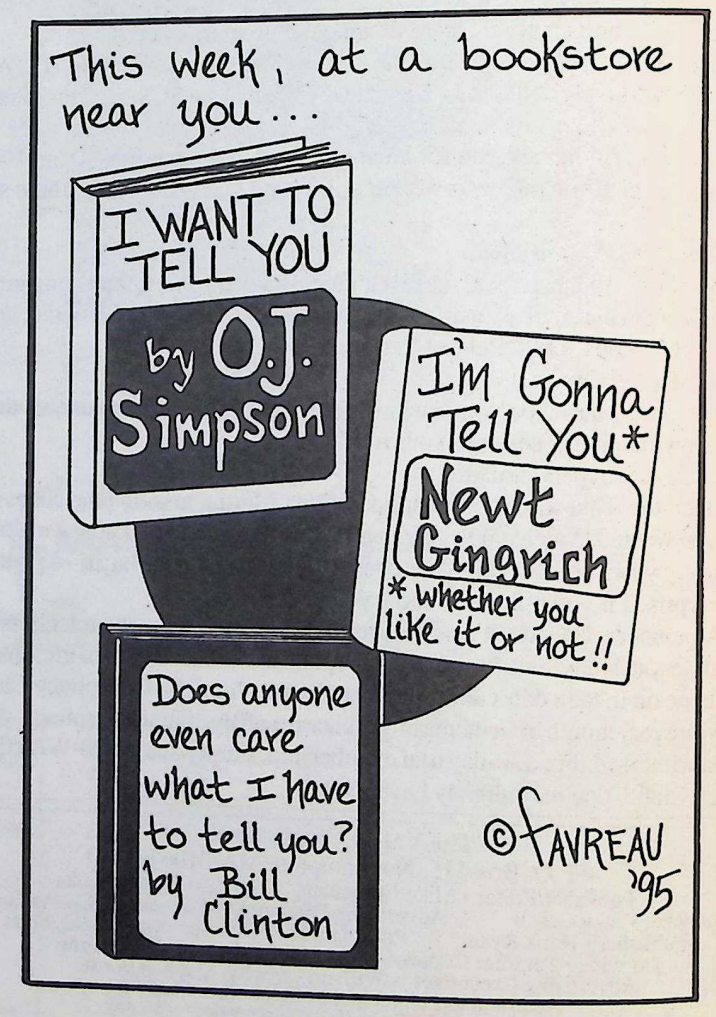


PBS
FEDERAL CUTBACKS



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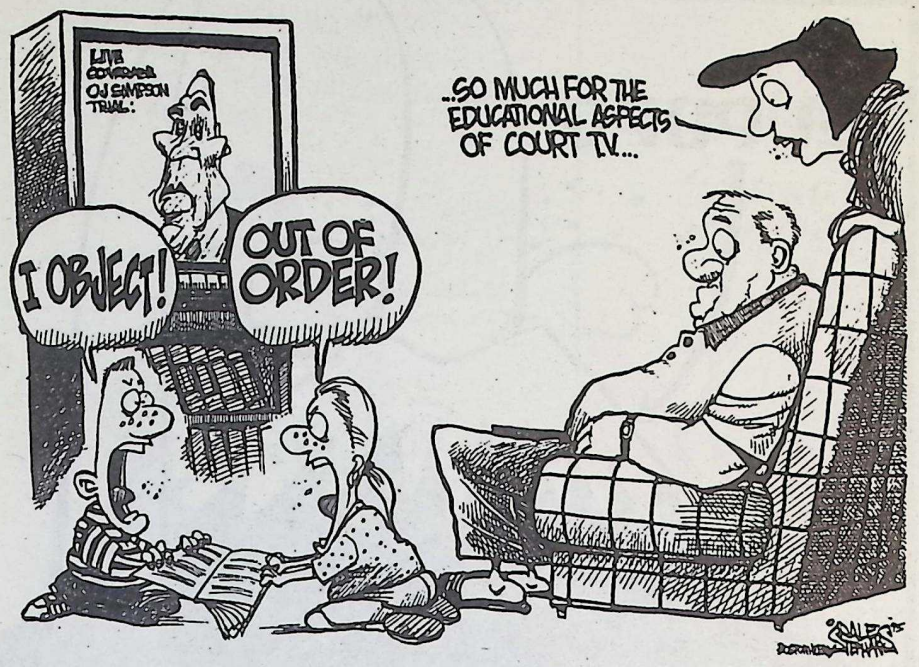
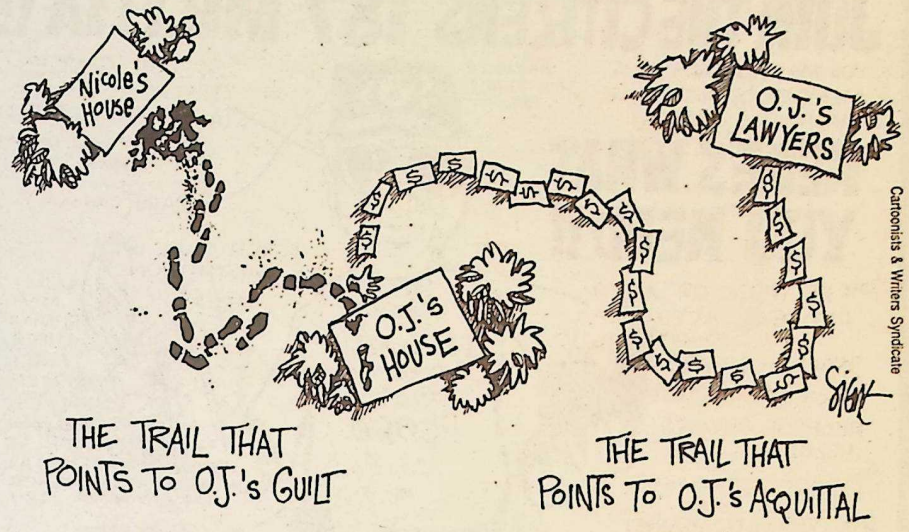
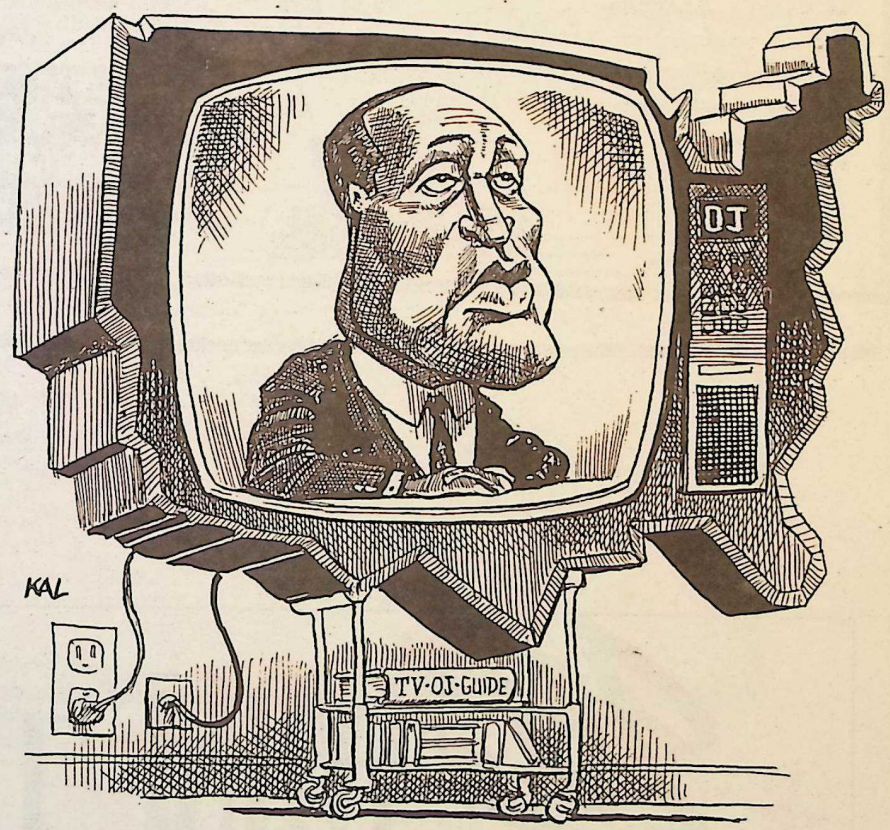
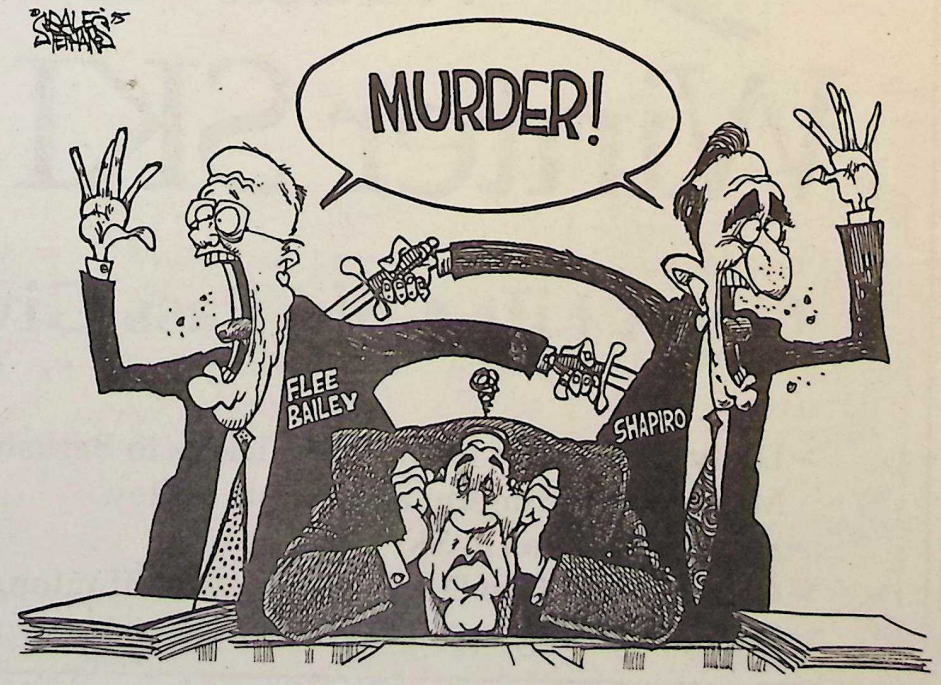
THE NATIONAL PAST TIME

FRESHLY-SQUEEZED JUICE



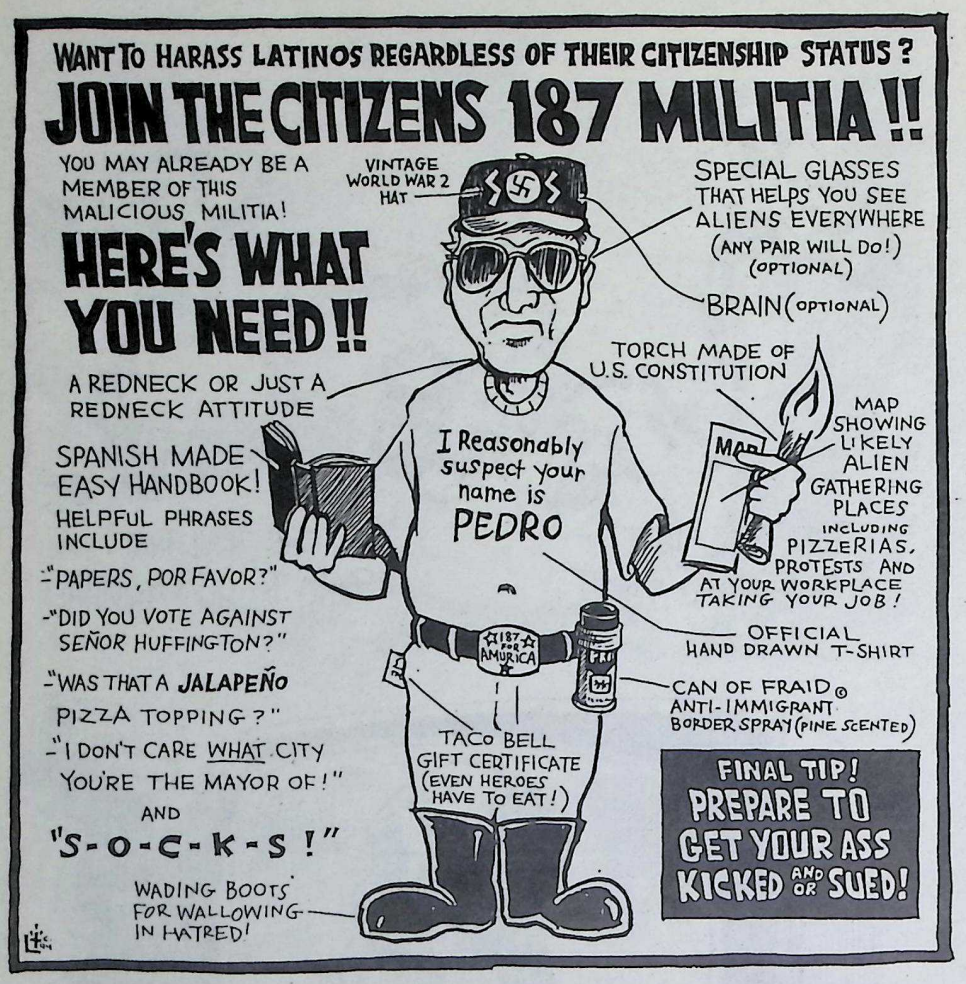


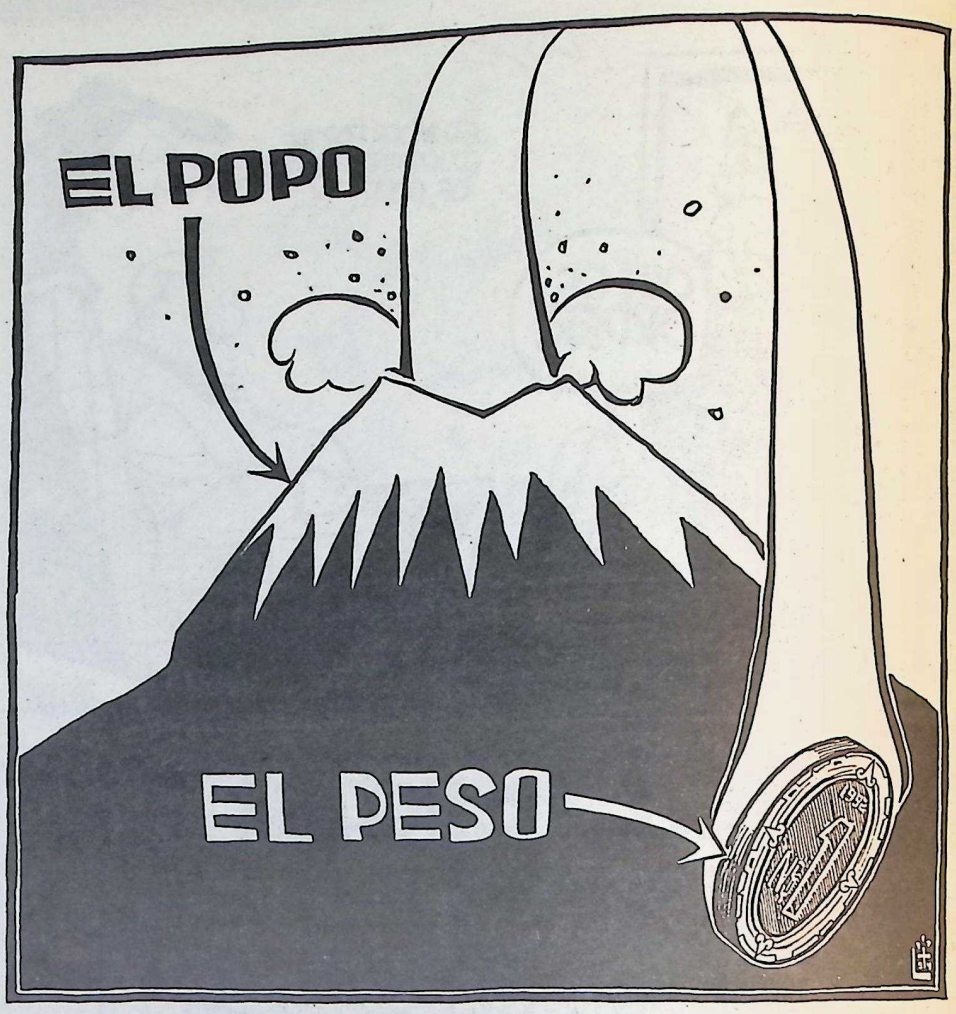




LA CUCARACHA

LALO ALCARAZ ©94





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Burrows Sports Shop, Brattleboro
Montague Mini Mart, Montague
Hinsdale Rt. 63 Country Store, Hinsdale, NH
BRW Electronics, Brattleboro
Western Village Ski and Sport, Northampton
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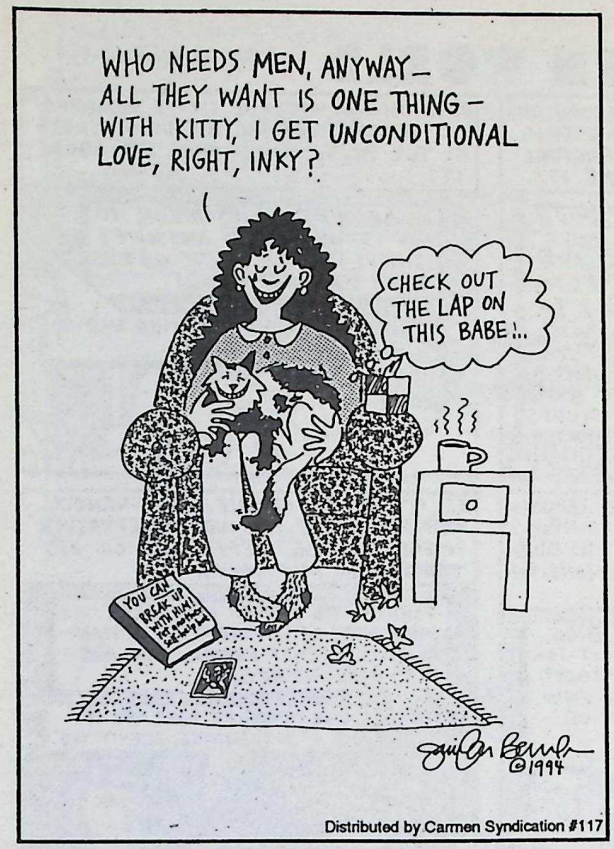
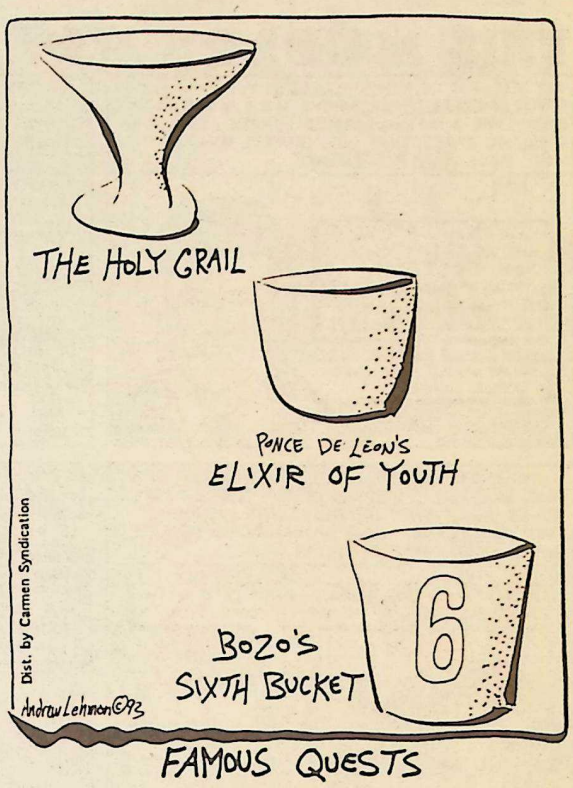
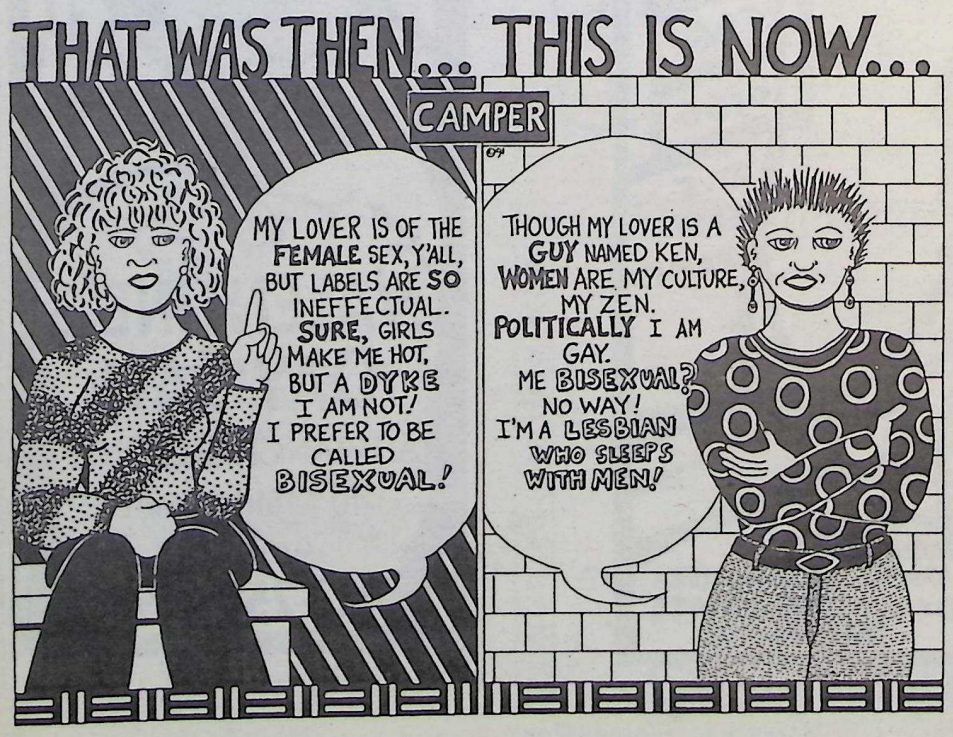
BEYOND POLITIX



Support small,owner-run businesses!!!

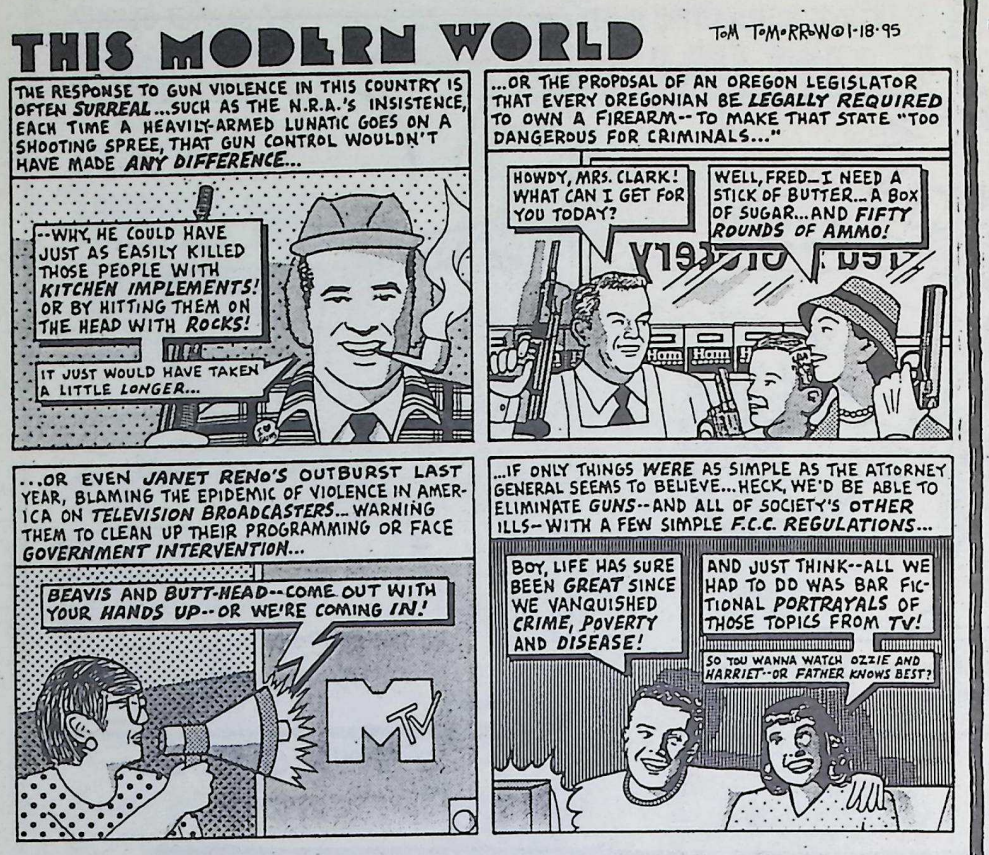




HOW TO END THE GREAT NEW JERSEY REST STOP CONTROVERSY:

SIGNE

THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW



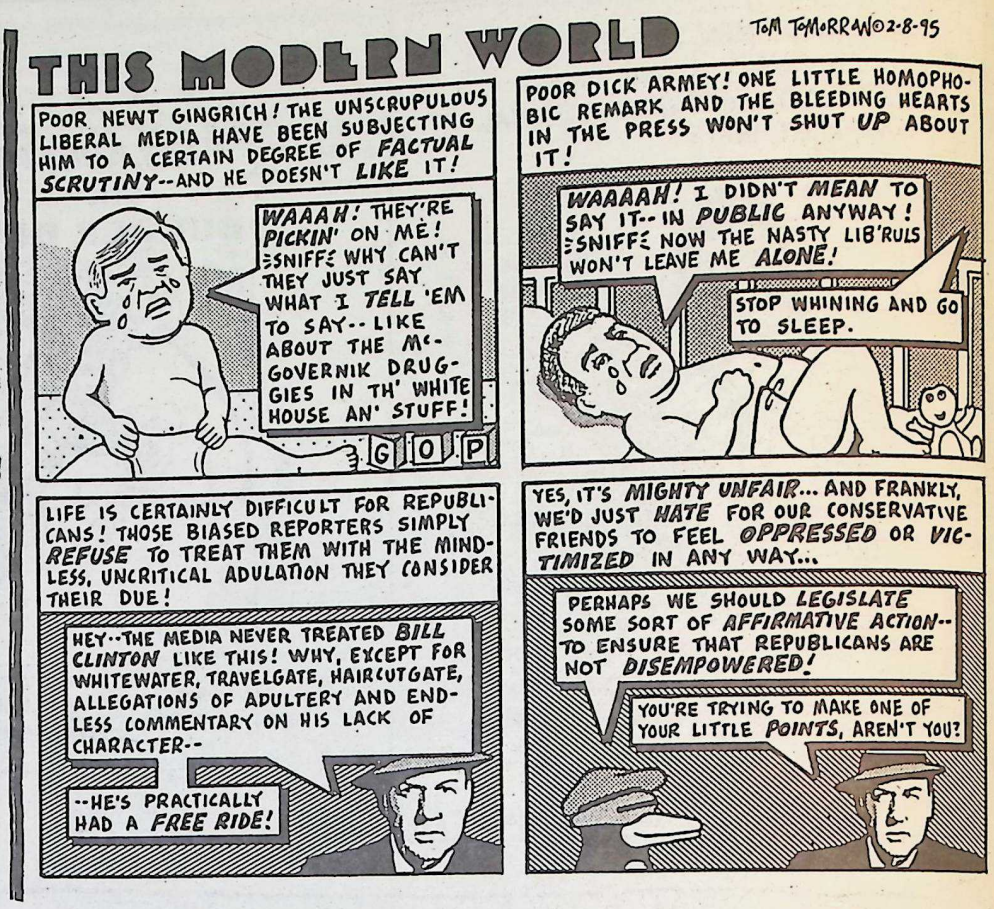


Photo: Jennifer Burdick

25 CENTRAL

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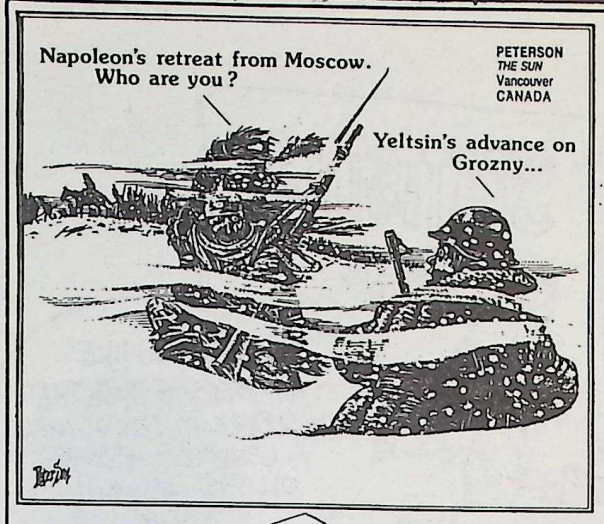
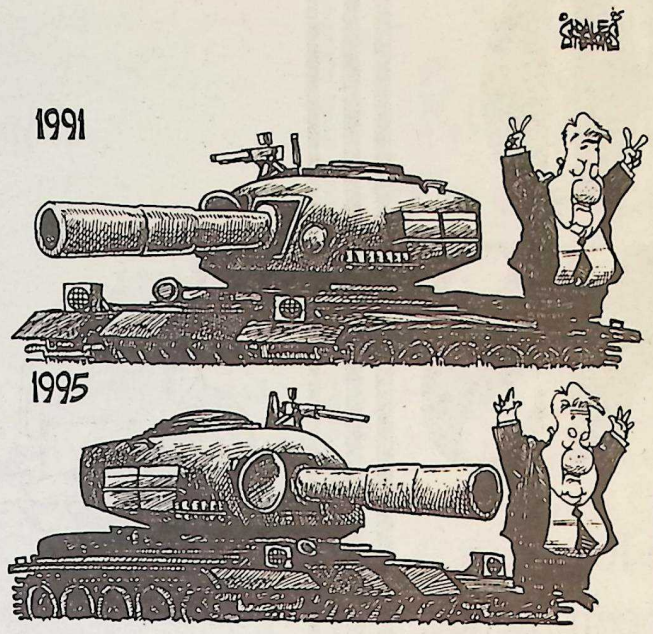
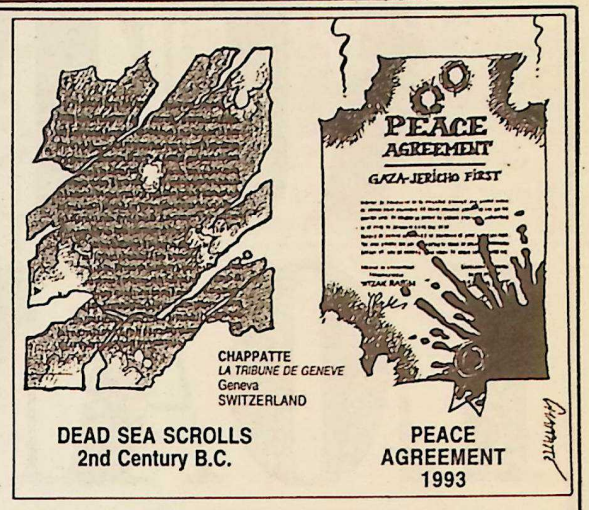
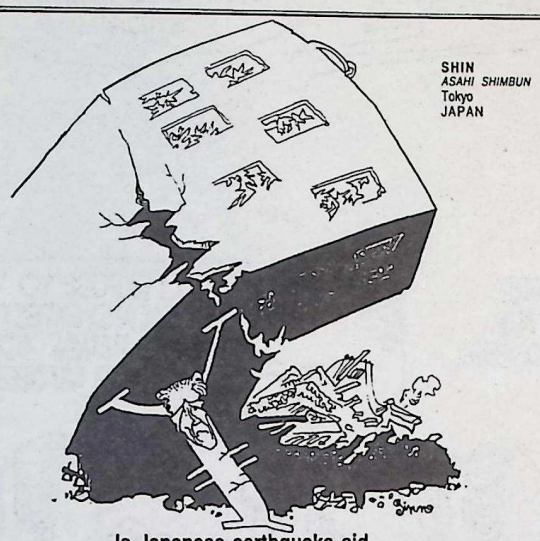
VIEWS OF THE WORLD

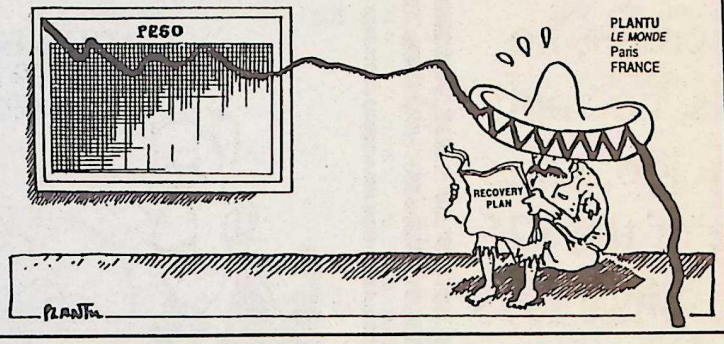








Is Japanese earthquake aid support for the government?



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Punch Buggies, Hot Nails, & Richard M. Nixon

Essays on life in America
by
Mike Chrisman
Editor, *Valley Comic News*

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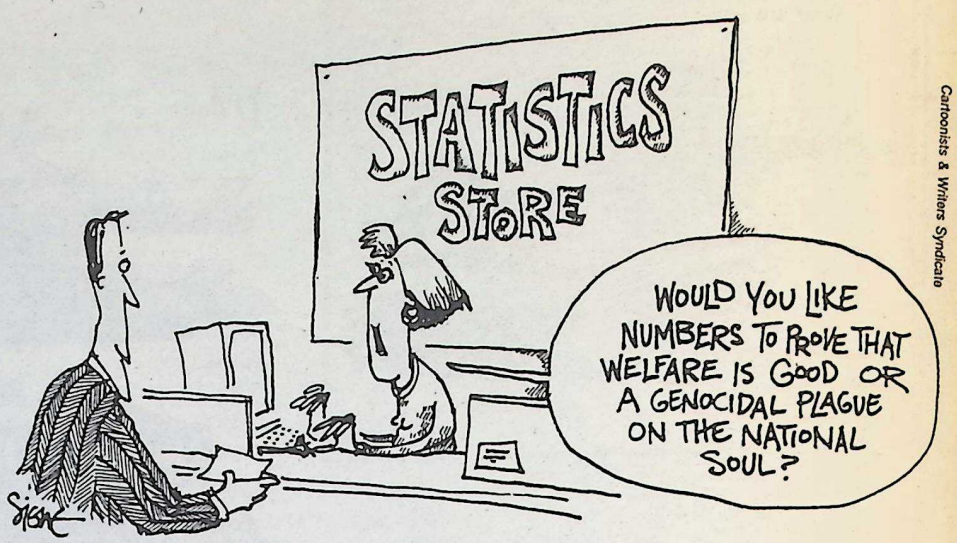

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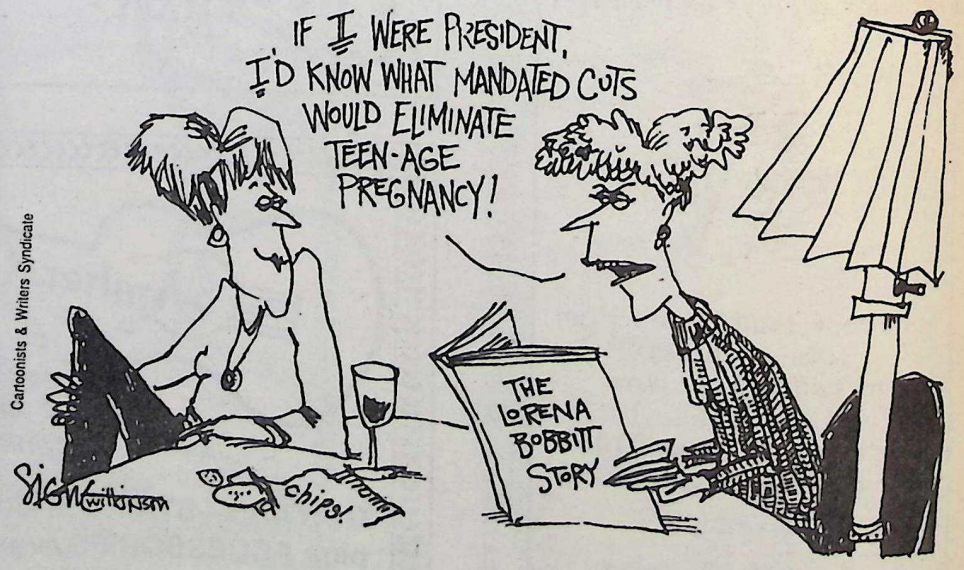

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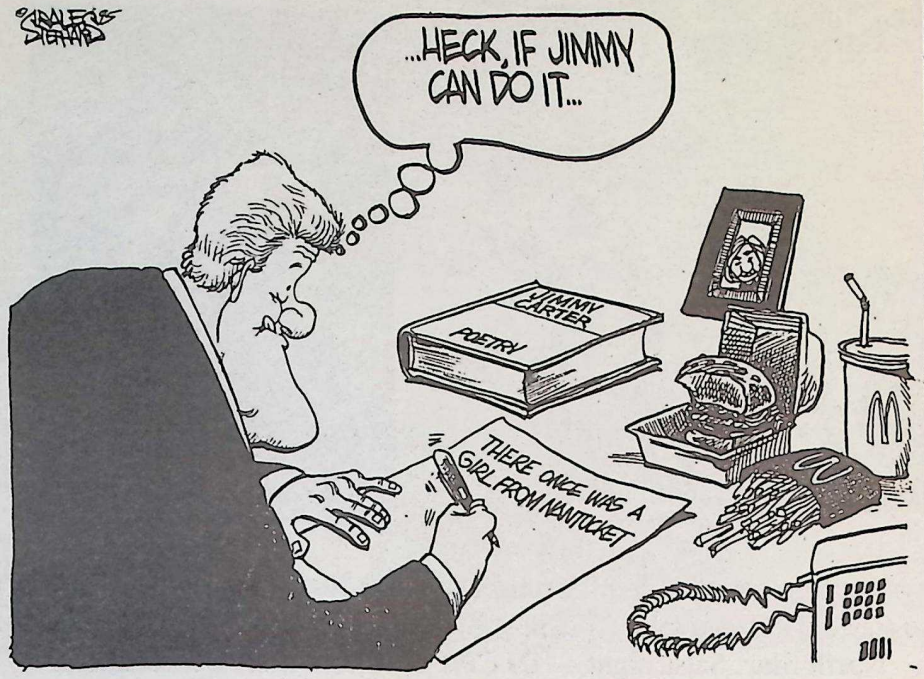
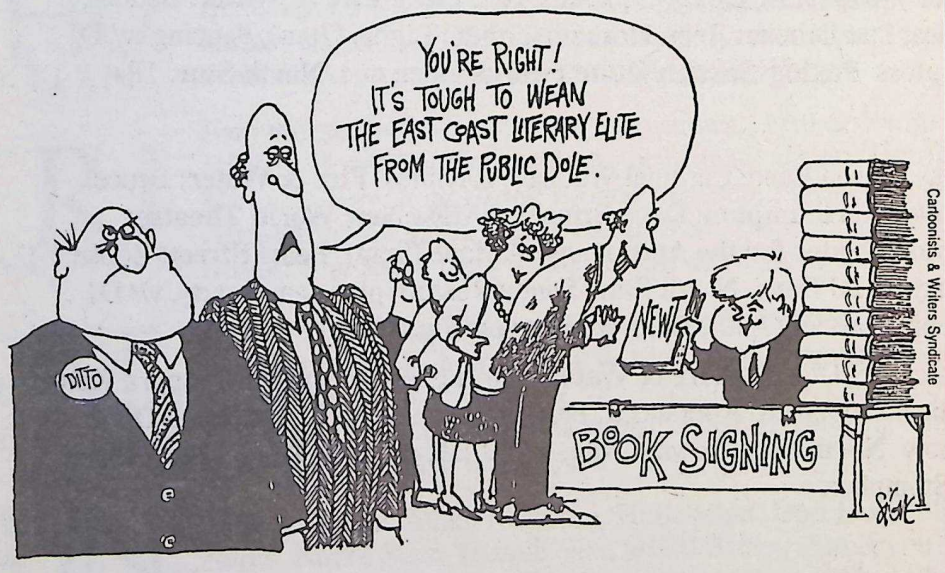
BOOKENDS





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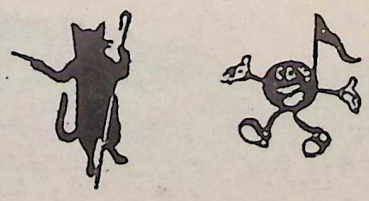

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LOOSE CABOOSE
New Horizon

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Solstice / Hatebreed
Aftershock / Persist

Sun., Feb. 12 - 9 pm all ages
OVERKILL
Perpetual Doom

Thurs., Feb. 16 - 8:30 pm 18+
LETTERS TO CLEO
Gigolo Aunts / The Gravel Pit

Fri., Feb. 17 - 8:30 pm 18+
BIM SKALA BIM
SMA

Sat., Feb. 18 - 8:30 pm
QUETZAL

Sun., Feb. 19 - 7:30 pm all ages
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10 Pearl Street, Northampton

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Listings

THU NINE

Katina's: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Joan Osborne Band, Amy Fairchild, plus Klar's Bar 10-1:00 (no cover) **Bay State Hotel**: String Bean, Union Label, Serpico (rated R) **Seven O's**: DJ dance club **Pearl Street**: Warren Zevon, Ray Mason, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **North Star**: Salsa night — DJ CPR **Fire & Water**: Boneshakers, The Squids

FRI TEN

Pearl Street: Marilyn Manson, Monster Voodoo Machine, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis **Seven O's**: Eldorado **Hotel Northampton**: Blue Pearl (w/ tap dancer!) **Bay State Hotel**: Equalites, Free Press **Fire & Water**: Bender, Cobe, & Hobbes (trombone trio!), Diana Davies, Star Drooker **Iron Horse:** Northern Lights (7pm), dancing w/ DJ Shawnuff (10pm) **Katina's**: Opium Den, Pangloss **Peking Garden/Humorworks**: open mic **North Star**: 18+ dance party **Waterfront**: Rippopotamus

SAT ELEVEN

Katina's: Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel**: Ray Mason Band, Cardinal Woolsey, Raymies **Fire & Water**: Bruce Weinraub (7pm), Chet Keefe Band (10pm) **Hotel Northampton**: Dave Brinnel **UMass New World Theatre**: Monkhood in Three Easy Lessons **Northampton Center for the Arts**: Danse Afrique (9pm) **Pearl Street**: Loose Caboose, New Horizon, plus Top 40 dance party w/ DJ Dave **North Star**: Sandy Russell, plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven **Seven O's**: Eldorado **Iron Horse**: Sleepy LaBeef (7pm), Wild Women comedy (10pm)

SUN TWELVE

Northampton Brewery: Rock Gods From Chicopee, Unband **Fire & Water**: Jim Hesson, accordianist (2pm), Keith Carini (8pm) **Pearl Street**: Earth Crisis, Solstice, Hatebreed, Aftershock, Persist (1pm); Overkill, Perpetual Doom (9pm) **Seven O's**: open mic, w/ host Mark Snow **North Star**: Townie Nite, w/ DJ Betsey **Iron Horse**: Buckwheat Zydeco **Katina's**: Pulse, Product of Society, Stompbox

MON THIRTEEN

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Katina's**: Gay Nite, Selectocution **Iron Horse**: Marshall Crenshaw **Fire & Water**: Open stage (7pm), Fire & Water Big Band (10pm) **North Star**: C & W nite, w/ DJ Cathy

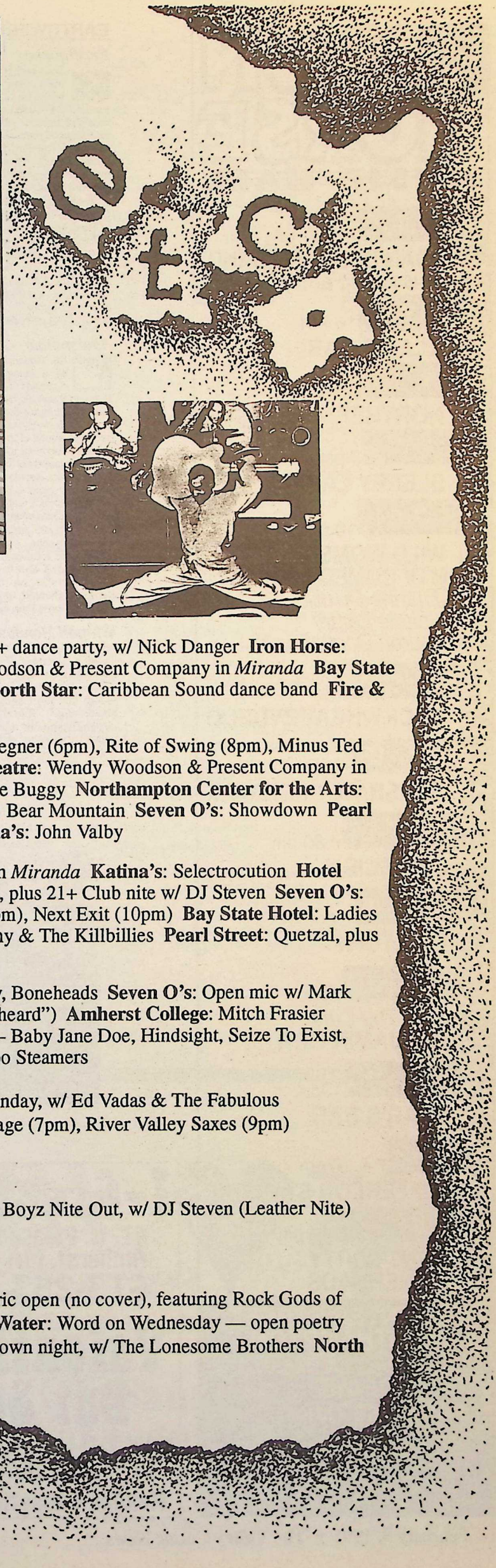
TUE FOURTEEN

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Frank Manzi **North Star**: Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven (Red Party) **Iron Horse**: J Mascis

WED FIFTEEN

Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open (no cover!), featuring Jamawockee **Iron Horse**: Liz Story **Katina's**: Katina's Country Night **North Star**: 30-something Partner Nite **Pearl Street**: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery**: Homegrown night, w/ Architectural Metaphor **Fire & Water**: Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm), Shannon Purcell, poetry (10pm)

Rent Party



THU SIXTEEN

Pearl Street: Letters to Cleo, Gigolo Aunts, The Gravel Pit, plus 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger **Iron Horse**: Benjamin Orr (of the Cars) **UMass Hampden Theatre**: Wendy Woodson & Present Company in *Miranda* **Bay State Hotel**: Trailer Park, Kevin Syssin Band **Katina's**: Selectrocution **North Star**: Caribbean Sound dance band **Fire & Water**: Star Drooker (benefit to stop Quebec Hydro)

FRI SEVENTEEN

Iron Horse: Jefferson Starship (two shows) **Fire & Water**: Glen Stegner (6pm), Rite of Swing (8pm), Minus Ted (10pm) **Hotel Northampton**: Mark Nomad **UMass Hampden Theatre**: Wendy Woodson & Present Company in *Miranda* **Bay State Hotel**: Blonde Redhead, Flycatcher, Tizzy, Dune Buggy **Northampton Center for the Arts**: Afro-Latin Folklorica (8pm) **North Star**: Dance party **Waterfront**: Bear Mountain **Seven O's**: Showdown **Pearl Street**: Bim Skala Bim, SMA, plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis **Katina's**: John Valby

SAT EIGHTEEN

UMass Hampden Theatre: Wendy Woodson & Present Company in *Miranda* **Katina's**: Selectrocution **Hotel Northampton**: Eric Weld **North Star**: Linee Peroncell Band (7pm), plus 21+ Club nite w/ DJ Steven **Seven O's**: Showdown **Fire & Water**: Kirby Farrell, (6pm), Christine Tulis (8pm), Next Exit (10pm) **Bay State Hotel**: Ladies Nite (Angry Johnny sez "Chicks get in free"), featuring Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Pearl Street**: Quetzal, plus Top 40 Dance Party w/ DJ Dave

SUN NINETEEN

Fire & Water: Adam Rothberg, Hullabaloo **Iron Horse**: Rent Party, Boneheads **Seven O's**: Open mic w/ Mark Snow **North Star**: Townie Nite, w/ DJ Betsey ("stuff you've never heard") **Amherst College**: Mitch Frasier **Katina's**: Plastic X, Seminis **Pearl Street**: Local Band Showcase — Baby Jane Doe, Hindsight, Seize To Exist, Grimlock, Hyponic Kick **Northampton Brewery**: Cocktail, Bamboo Steamers

MON TWENTY

North Star: C & W Nite, w/ DJ Sparkie **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Katina's**: Gay Night **Fire & Water**: Open stage (7pm), River Valley Saxes (9pm)

TUE TWENTYONE

Northampton Brewery: open mic w/ host Paul Rocha **North Star**: Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven (Leather Nite) **Pearl Street**: Teen Dance Nite

WED TWENTYTWO

Katina's: Katina's Country Night **Bay State Hotel**: Bay State electric open (no cover), featuring Rock Gods of Chicopee **Pearl Street**: Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Fire & Water**: Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm), Shana Lee, poetry (10pm) **Northampton Brewery**: Homegrown night, w/ The Lonesome Brothers **North Star**: 30-something Partner Nite **Iron Horse**: John Sebastian

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SAT 11 10 pm
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MTV COMEDY WRITERS
J'nanne DiTullio
Helene Lantry
Lauren Dombrowski

SUN 12 7pm
BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO

MON 13 7pm
MARSHALL CRENSHAW

TUES 14 8:30 pm
J MASCIS

WED 15 7 pm
LIZ STORY

THUR 16 7pm
from The Cars
BENJAMIN ORR

THUR 16 10pm
KLAR'S BAR

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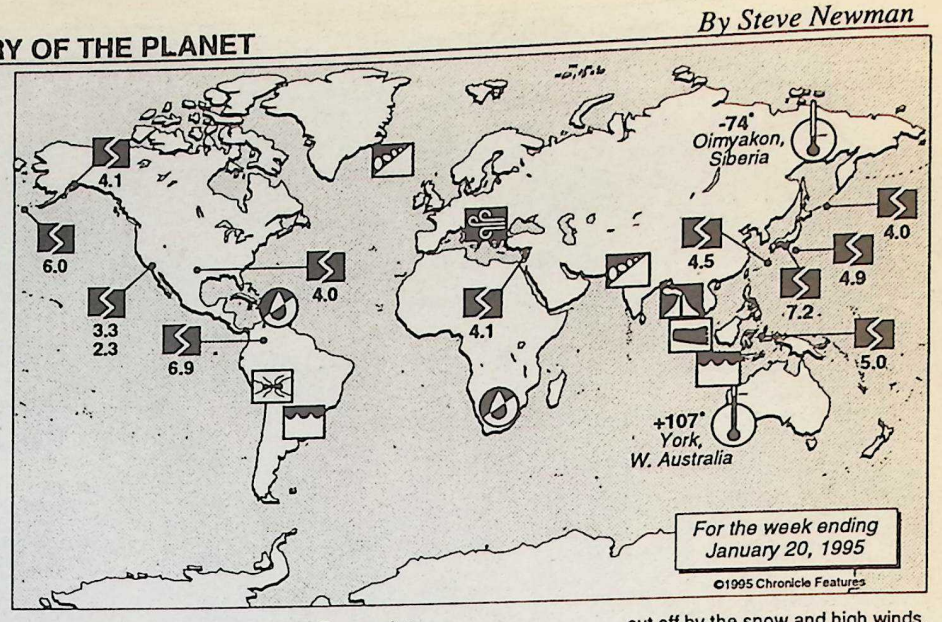
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Earthquakes

The recent fear among many Japanese that 1995 would be "The Year of the Earthquake" came true as a magnitude 7.2 temblor killed thousands and wrecked parts of southern Honshu. Much of the damage in the hardest-hit city of Kobe was caused by the resulting firestorms that were sparked by ruptured gas mains.

A strong temblor along the Colombia-Venezuela border killed at least one person and damaged buildings in several cities.

Earth movements also were felt in other points in Japan, the Kuril Islands, the Aleutian Islands, southern Alaska, Indonesia's Moluccas province, Cyprus, Oklahoma and the greater Los Angeles area.

Avalanches

An avalanche unleashed by a fierce winter storm crashed down on the sleeping Icelandic fishing village of Sudavik, plunging the isolated community into darkness and killing 14 people. Several of the victims were children who were still in their beds when thousands of tons of snow hit before dawn. Residents across Iceland were urged to remain indoors as high winds created one of the worst blizzards in recent years.

At least 125 people were killed when avalanches flattened a radio station and roadways in Kashmir. Heavy snows and landslides also blocked traffic on the highway between Jammu and Srinagar, stranding more than 1,000 people.

Winged Menace

A plague of flying ants has devoured Peruvian pastures near the southeast Andean city of Puno, and officials feared that the insects could next attack crops. The Environmental Health Department reported that the ants also have attacked children and livestock, leaving some badly bitten.

Eruption

Indian coast guard officials reported that the volcano on remote Barren Island, in the Bay of Bengal, has been sending a stream of black lava down its slopes since the New Year. A plume of smoke was also seen rising above the uninhabited island which is six square miles in size. The volcano became active in March 1991 after lying dormant for two centuries.

Floods

Heavy rains pouring down the southern and midwestern parts of Brazil have left at least eight dead and caused significant damage to the homes of almost 12,000 residents in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana and Sao Paulo.

Floods brought on by the onset of Indonesia's belated rainy season has claimed three lives and damaged more than 9,000 homes in the Sumatran province of Riau.

Drought

As another round of drought parched much of southern Africa, the mountain kingdom of Lesotho appealed to the international community for food assistance. Low harvests are expected in most areas from Tanzania in the north to the fertile fields of Zimbabwe and South Africa through the next several months.

Water rationing resumed for residents of Puerto Rico as the worst drought this century worsened across the U.S. commonwealth. Brief rains during the hurricane season eased the crisis, but dry weather has returned in recent weeks.

Wintry Winds

A broad stretch of southern Europe, from the Alps to the eastern Mediterranean, was lashed by a winter storm that badly disupted transportation and communications. Several hundred Greek villages were cut off by the snow and high winds.

In Search of Big Foot

Malaysian army and police units joined with wildlife experts and jungle tribes to search for a hairy creature called "Big Foot," after trekkers stumbled upon fresh footprints. They combed thousands of square miles of dense jungle surrounding Tanjung Piai in Johore state, where reports of the sighting were first received. Tension mounted when superstitious villagers feared that the fresh footprints could belong to another "Big Foot," despite government efforts to assure them that there is only one of the creatures. Indonesian officials say the eight-foot-tall creature's fresh footprints measured about one-and-a-half-feet long and display only four toes.

Additional Sources: South African Weather Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, Meteo France, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.

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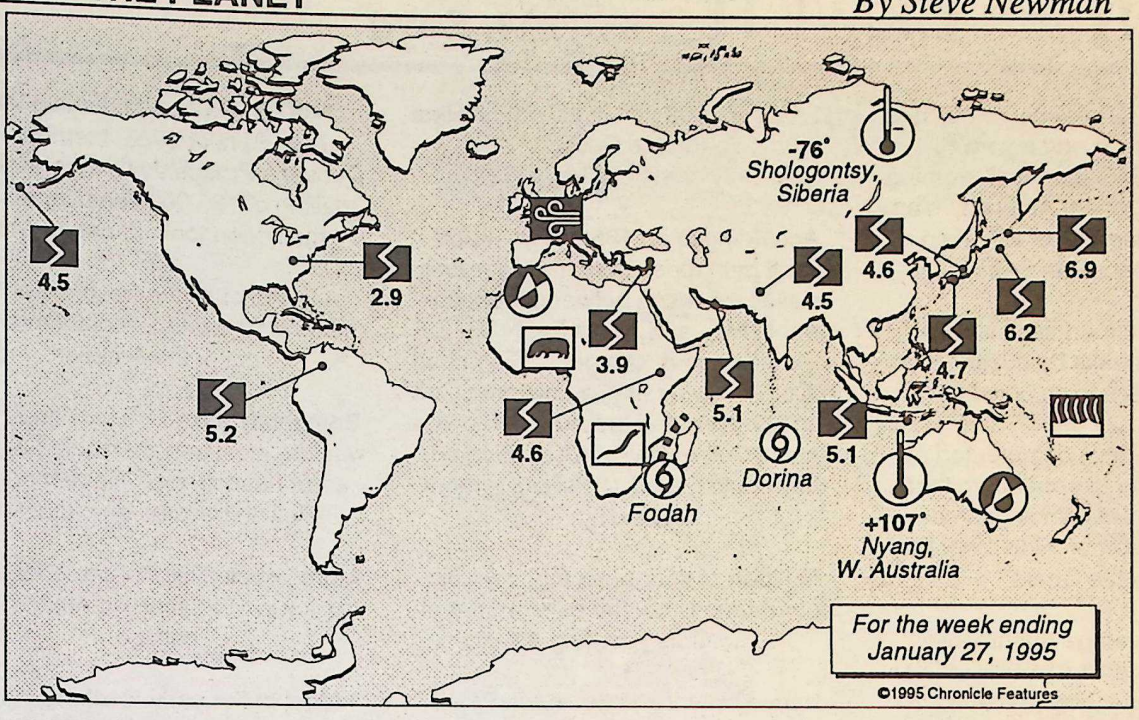
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Earthquakes

Japan was rattled by several significant tremors, including strong aftershocks of the disastrous quake that killed more than 5,000 people and wrecked Kobe during the previous week. No further damage from this seismic activity was reported.

A strong quake centered in southern Iran injured 11 people and damaged several buildings around the town of Fin. Earth movements also were felt in northern Pakistan, southeastern Turkey, southern Ethiopia, northern Colombia, the Kuril Islands, the Aleutian Islands, Indonesia's Sumba Island and in parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

Euro Storms

Northern Europe was lashed by a series of blustery and wet storms that moved ashore from the North Atlantic. At least 10 people were killed in accidents caused by wintry conditions in France, Belgium and Germany. The worst flooding in 150 years swamped Brittany, along France's western shores, and the German government issued a red alert for floods throughout the Rhine Valley. Officials there fear a reoccurrence of 1993's "Flood of the Century" which inundated Cologne and Bonn, causing several hundred million dollars in damage.

Crawling Invasion

Regiments of voracious armyworms are devastating the dwindling maize crops that are already suffering from a worsening drought across Zimbabwe. The plague mainly is affecting small farmers, some of whom refuse to fight the infestation with pesticides, saying it is against their tradition. The gluttonous green worm, which devours vegetation, spread to many of Zimbabwe's principal grain-growing regions after invading the country from Zambia.

El Niño

The El Niño ocean-warming phenomenon has strengthen further in the tropical Pacific Ocean, causing more widespread climatic disruptions around the world. The rise in ocean surface temperature, centered this time from Samoa to the Solomon Islands, is blamed for the recent floods in California as well as the droughts in southern Africa, New Zealand and Australia. It is probably responsible for the current flooding and stormy period in Europe, and the Moroccan drought as well. Scientists believe the El Niño will remain at its current strength during the next two months before slowly weakening.

Tropical Storms

Tropical cyclone Dorina was nearly stationary late in the week over the open waters of the central Indian Ocean. Cyclone Fodah brought more than 10 inches of rainfall to Madagascar, along with gales and high surf to coastal areas on both sides of the Mozambique Channel.

Drought

Prayers for rain were held in mosques and synagogues across Morocco, but meteorologists say it may already be too late to save this year's harvest, with water reservoirs nearly empty and the rainy season half over. Newspapers have been speculating on the possible repercussions of the deepening drought which they say threatens the country's social fabric by forcing the migration of youths from parched rural areas to urban centers.

Australia's drought is still critical and water restrictions will continue in Sydney despite a weekend of the best rains in four years, according to the New South Wales government. Flash flooding in some parts of the state forced farmers to shoot drought-weakened livestock that became bogged down in murky water and mud.

Hippo Havoc

A hungry hippopotamus, believed by local fishermen to have magical power, is wreaking havoc along west Africa's Niger River, attacking canoes and destroying nearby rice fields. Mali's state news agency said villagers in the Selingue Dam area, 80 miles south of the capital Bamako, had organized army patrols for their protection. Villagers have been hunting the hippo since December, when the country's water and forest authority gave them permission to kill the protected animal. Fishermen say the beast has so far evaded the hunters because it has the power to disappear at will.

Additional Sources: *Meteo France, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Japan Meteorological Agency, Casablanca Meteorological Center, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.*

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. What's the difference between a sweet potato and a yam?
A. Sweet potato — a root of morning glory origin in Central America. Yam — a twining vine fruit of lily origin in South America and Africa.

•

A household expert says you can quiet floor squeaks by dusting the cracks with talcum powder.

•

Many tourists have commented on how classy Toronto appears to them. The actor Peter Ustinov once described it as a sort of "New York City run by the Swiss."

•

Today the average matrimonial engagement lasts 14 months, which is six months longer than the average engagement 10 years ago.

•

Coca-Cola's holiday commercial where the polar bear cubs slide down a snowy hill was based on natural fact. Northern bear cubs in fact do that frequently when they play.

•

Half the $1 billion spent on hats is spent on baseball caps.

•

Most dinosaur fossils have been discovered in North America.

•

Q. Has a silent film ever win the Best Picture Oscar?
A. Only one — *Wings* in 1927.

•

According to an 1850 news report, eight men rode shotgun on the first mail stagecoach between Independence, Mo., and Santa Fe, N.M. But they didn't carry shotguns. Each had a Colt revolving rifle, a holstered Colt long revolver, and tucked in the belt, a small Colt revolver. They claimed they could fire off 136 shots without reloading.

•

The part of your brain that controls your thumb is not the same part that controls your fingers.

•

Native Americans never fried their food.

•

The phrase "piggy back" started as "pick a pack." It was used among freight handlers, who picked up packs and hoisted them on their backs.

•

Some snakes in zoos have refused food for more than two years.

•

If all the wool of five Merino sheep were spun into one long fiber, that fiber could circle the world.

•

Q. When was the first chain letter?
A. In April of 1935, members of Denver's Prosperity Club organized a mailing of 165,000 chain letters, and the notion took off nation-wide.

•

A fourth of all the fresh water that drains off the earth's continents pours out of the Amazon.

•

Somebody asked Henry Fonda what was the most important thing a young actor has to learn. He responded, "How to become an old actor."

•

More people filed for personal bankruptcy in 1992 than graduated from college.

•

Most of the early teachers in this country were men, but that started to change around 1850, as families moved west. Then it changed dramatically in the 1860s, as young men died by the thousands on Civil War battlefields.

•

Two-fifths of American women dye their hair.

•

Scientists say that all species become extinct, but most survive about 8 million years.

•

Q. What's the largest known living thing?
A. A 106-acre stand of quaking aspen in Utah, with 47,000 trunks connected to the root of a single tree. Scientists believe it weighs more than 13 million pounds.

•

Nearly 90 percent of tropical animals go out for food at night.

•

In 1908 the first outdoor advertising sign — "Chew Mail Pouch tobacco — was displayed in Wheeling, W. Va.

•

A cow's typical lifespan is 30 years.

•

Some folks in California's mountains are said to make as much as $1,000 a day — when they work — catching ladybugs to sell to organic gardeners.

•

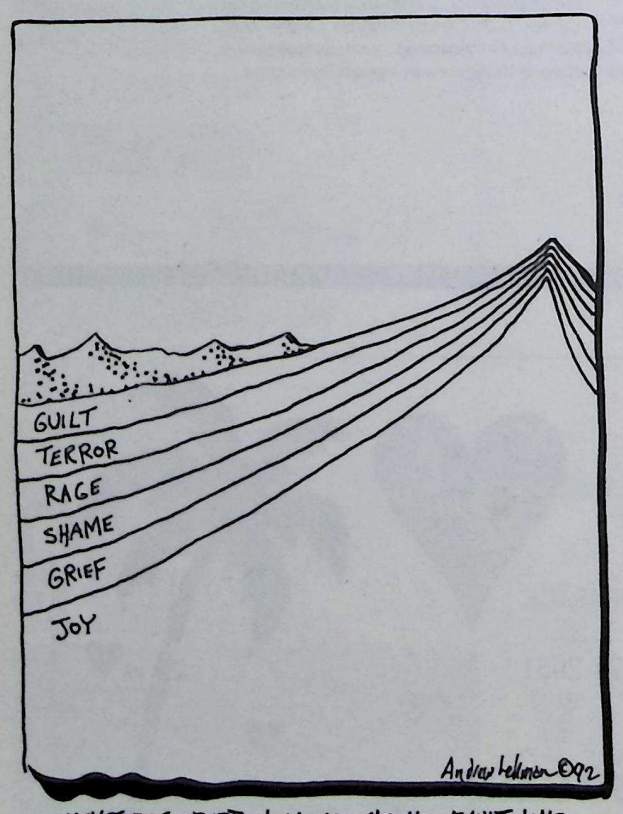
Lily Tomlin noted, "Ninety-eight percent of all adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. And the other lousy two percent get all the publicity. But then — we elected them...."

•

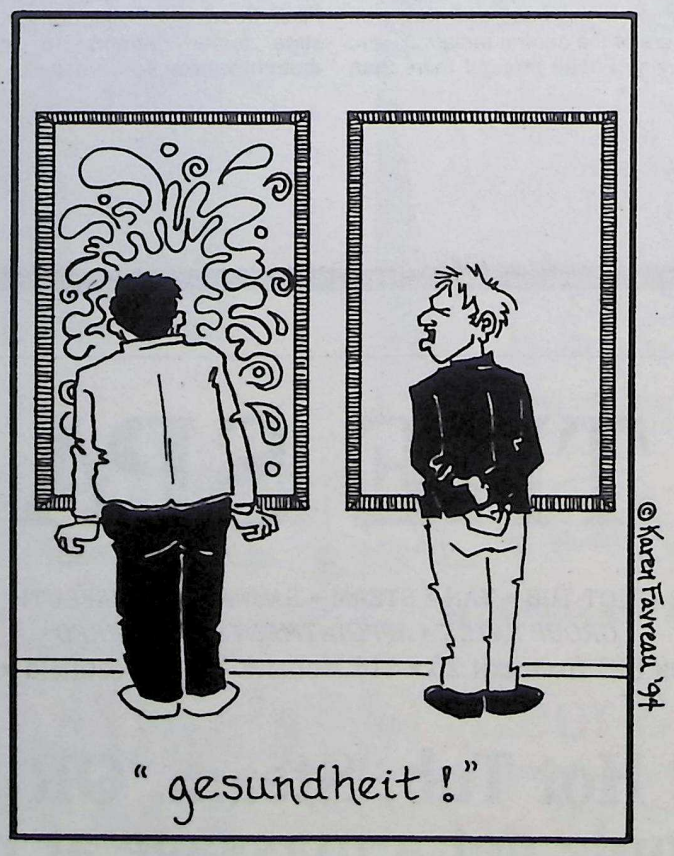
Three out of four professional musicians suffer serious injuries as a result of their careers.

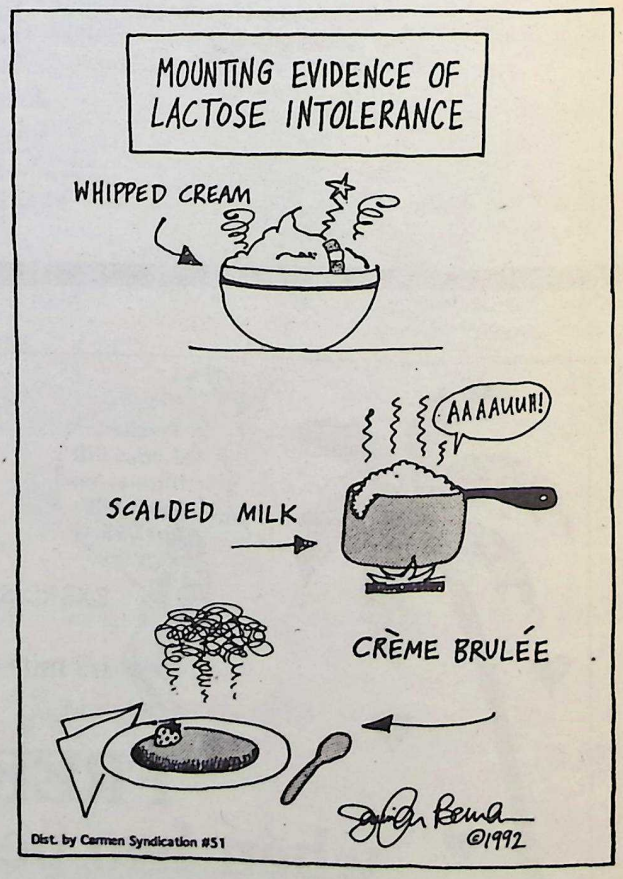
•

BEYOND POLITIX



INEVITABLE ERUPTION ALONG THE NO-FAULT LINE





JOE BOB BRIGGS

Report from the Nazi front:

Last year they put up some Sam Spade-style comic book panels in the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, to promote recycling.

A week after they went up, they were covered with shrouds.

A week after that, they were gone, condemned with that magic word of censors everywhere — *"Offensive."*

What in the world was in those things? Nekkid women? Cannibals eating human intestines? Let's take a look at this nasty business.

Offensive panel #1: One of the characters, using tough-detective parlance, says, "It's raining Persians and Pekingese."

"Racial slur!" someone said. Who said it? We don't know. Asked to produce the Persian or Peking native who was offended, the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport officials dribbled off into vague generalities.

But even if there *was* an Iranian or a Chinese who was offended, all you had to say to 'em was, "We're talking about *animals*, noodle-brain. It's slang for 'cats and dogs.'"

In fact, I can see no way that the idea of *"raining"* someone could be deemed offensive, no matter *what* nationality you used.

"Raining Finns and Germans."

"Raining Zaireans and Pakistanis."

"Raining Ugandans and Bolivians."

See? There's *no way* to make it offensive. So once again, something was ripped off the wall by somebody's dimwitted fuzzy-thinking *idea* about what somebody else *might* think is offensive, except the other person who might think it's offensive doesn't really exist, but is a figment of the imagination of the fuzzy thinker. Are you following this?

Offensive panel #2: A statuesque blonde female, the classic "femme fatale" in detective fiction, appears in one panel.

"Stereotype! Stereotype!" someone said. Who said it? Once again, we don't know *exactly.*

Look around you. How many Marilyn Monroe lookalikes do *you* see? It's anything *but* a stereotype. Virtually *no one* looks like that, *except in cartoons!*

This *is* a cartoon. We *like* beautiful women in cartoons. We *could* put ugly women in cartoons, but we don't like them as much.

I'm surprised I have to explain this.

Offensive panel #3: Johnny Camano, the cartoon gumshoe, is on the trail of the curvy female.

"He could be perceived as a stalker," somebody said.

I'm not sure why this matters, even if he *is* a stalker. But I think somebody is saying that impressionable patrons of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport will notice the cartoon, consume too much gourmet coffee, go off the deep end, and start stalking women in the Alaska Airlines reservation line.

Offensive panel #4: A stool pigeon called Louie the Lip stammers because his nerves are shot.

This is insulting to — get this — people who stutter, people with cleft palates, and people with malformed lips.

No comment.

Here's the amazing part of this story. The design firm that created the comic-book panels submitted everything to the Port of Seattle, in a formal review process that went through all kinds of committees and supervisors and high sheriffs, and *it was all approved.*

This is the way it always happens — at least with me. I say, "Okay, read this and say yes or no." Somebody says yes. Three weeks later, somebody neither of us have ever heard of *complains.* Suddenly, the person who said yes turns into a retroactive "no."

You know why?

Cowardice.

Pure and simple cowards who don't even trust their own convictions — or, more than likely, don't know what a conviction is. These are the people who run 1995 America. Pitiful, isn't it?

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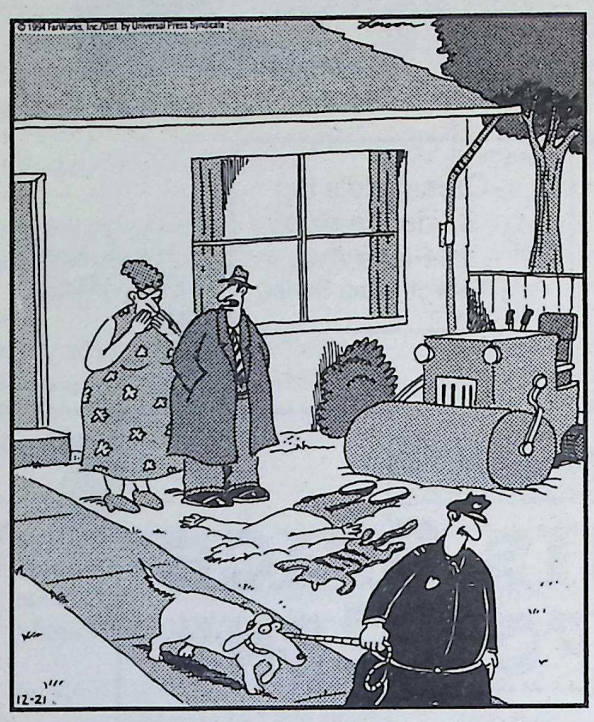
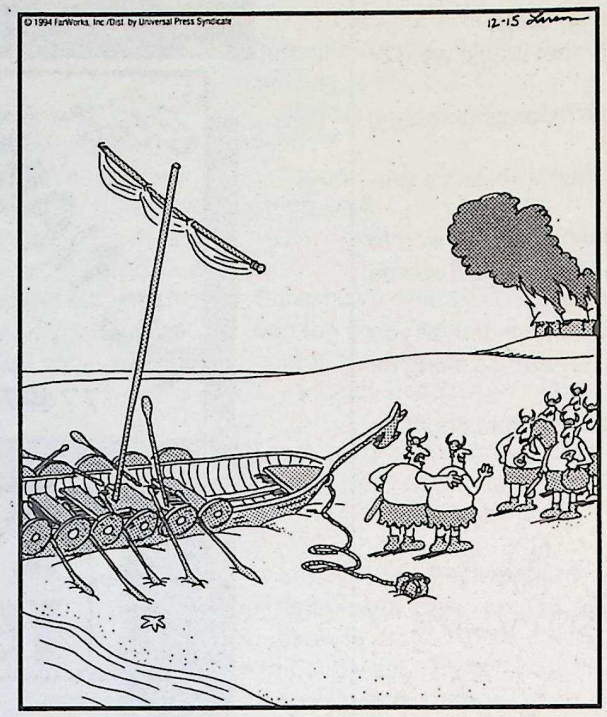
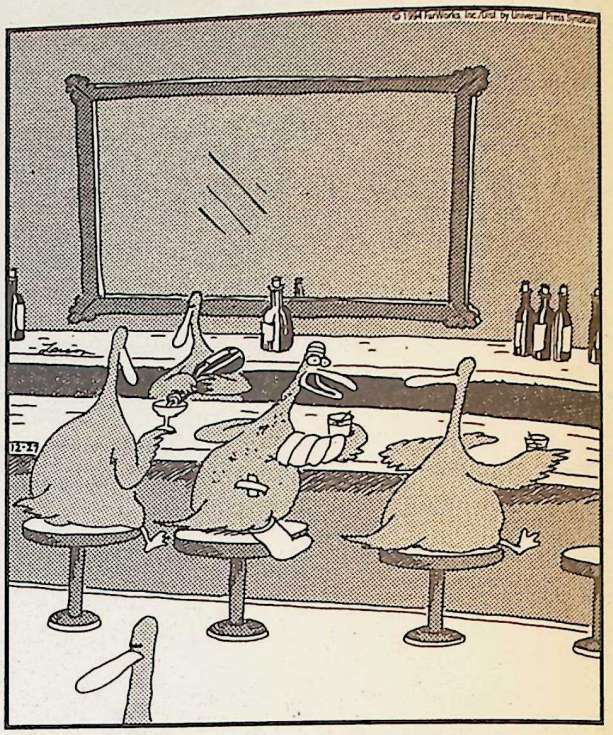
THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson



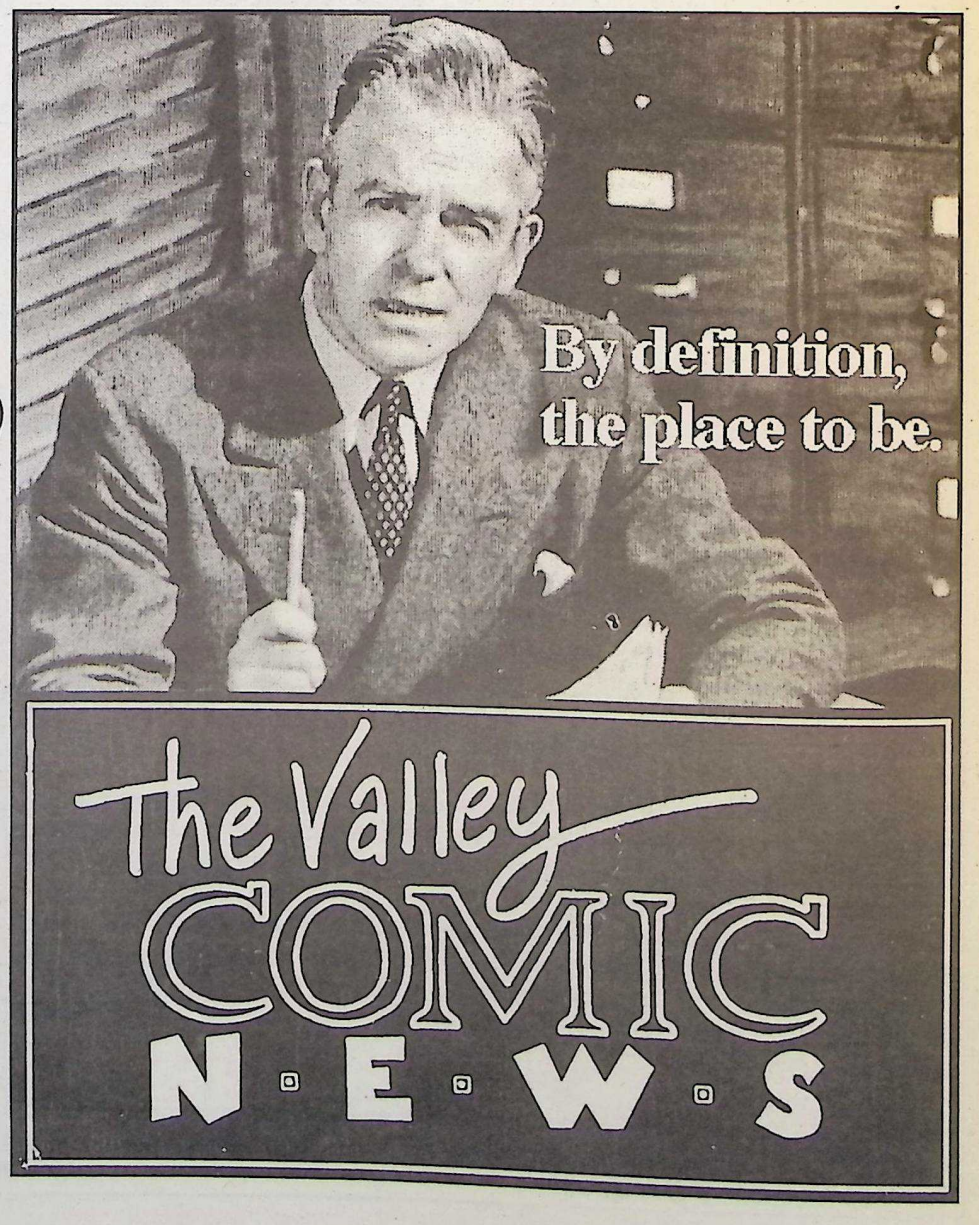
"Your dog had both motive and opportunity, ma'am: He hated the cat and he's had training in operating heavy machinery. ... Your husband, we feel, was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

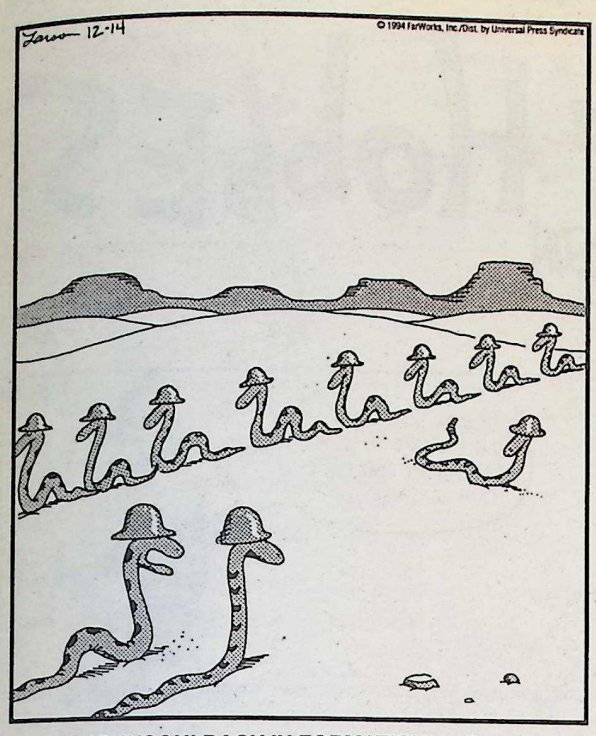


"Everyone can just put down their loot and plunder, and Sven here — yes, old Sven, who was in charge of reading the tide chart — has something to say to us all."



"Well, hell no, I can't tell Harriet! ... First thing she's gonna ask me is what was I doin' checkin' out a decoy!"

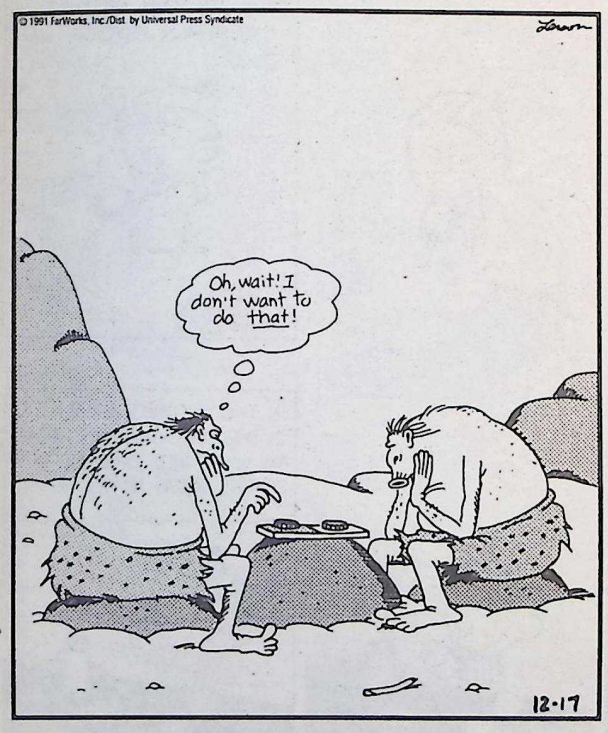




"JOHNSON! BACK IN FORMATION! ... Dang, I hate sidewinders."

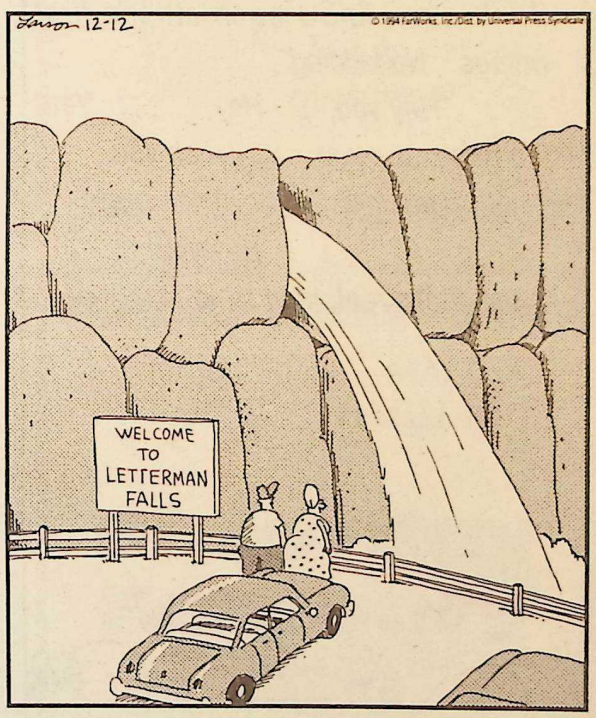
"Situation's changed, Jules. ... Take my buffalo gun and hand me my mime rifle."

"The *first* thing I'm gonna do is wipe that smile off your face!"



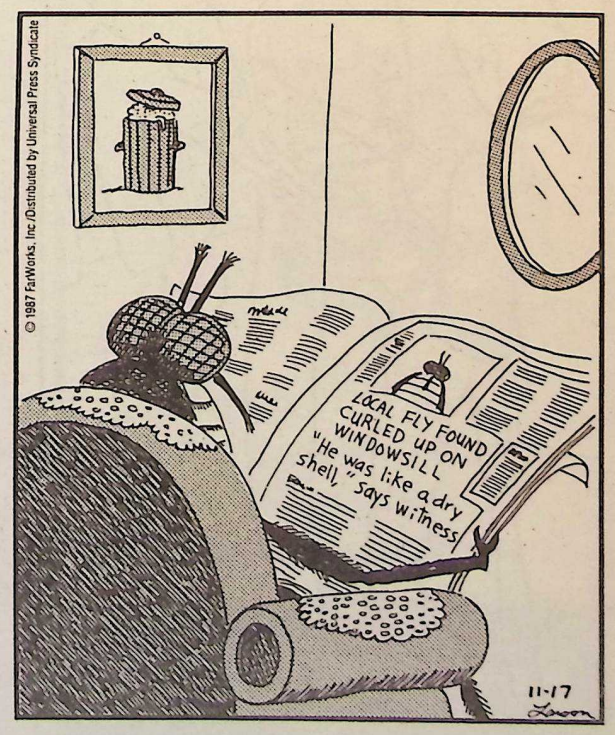
Early checkers

Hunting lodge readings



"He's making his nest now ... There! See it? That son-of-a- ... He's got himself a futon!"

Until God warned him to knock it off, Noah would often try to get a little poker game going with some of the dumb animals.



Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

I hang out with different groups of friends at different times.

For years I've had this one group. But we don't know each other's last names.

We're really good friends... go to places, parties, sports,....

we sing, "Happy birthday to you, dear Connie...."

Connie who? Who cares!

I know another group, and they don't even know each other's first names. No kidding.

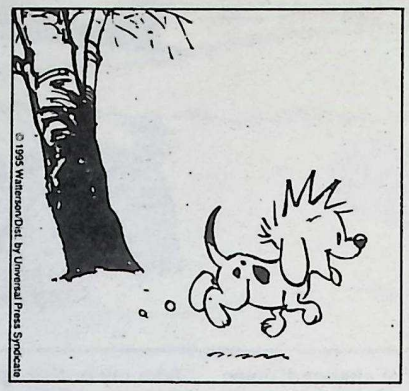
"Hey you, ... Hey, ... You! Yo babe, ... you, ... yeah you.

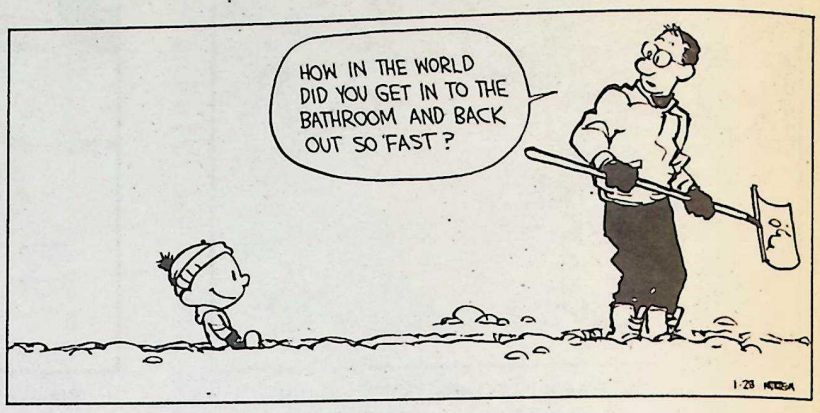
Hey

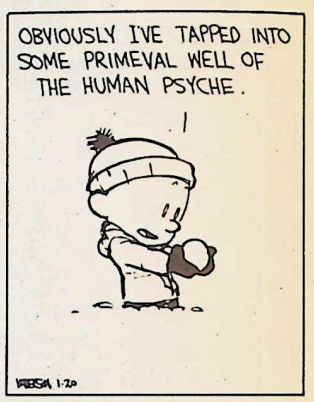
Hey you!

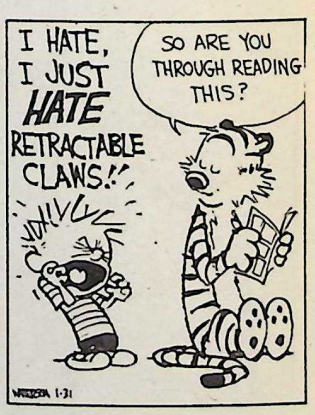
Now, that's real friendship.

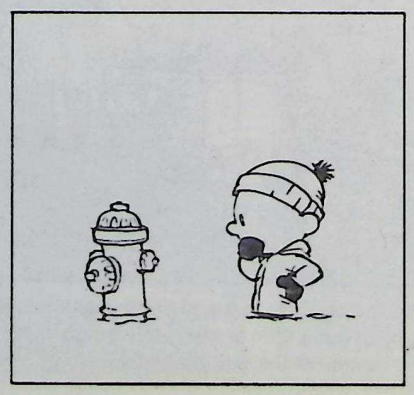
Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson

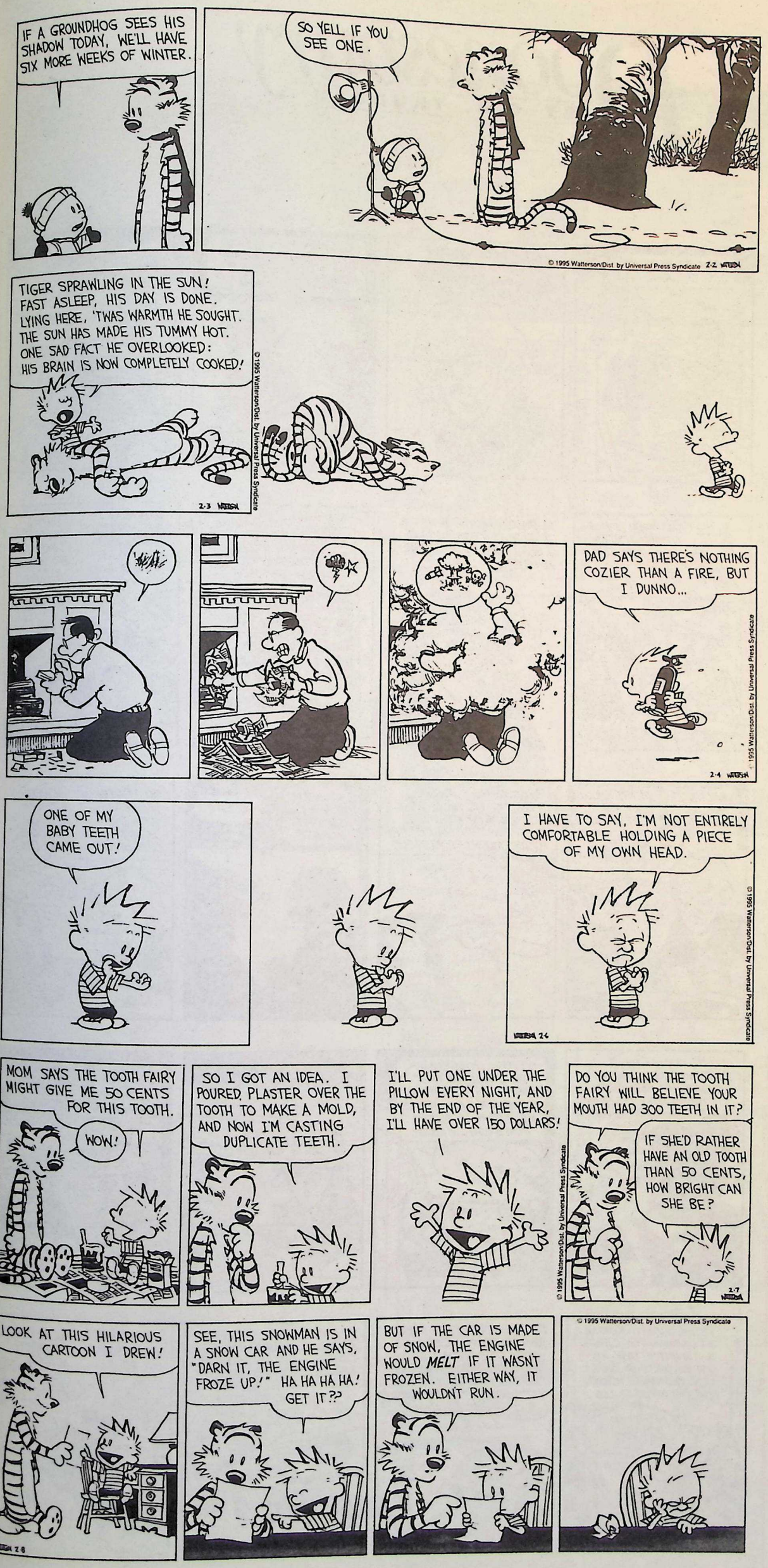












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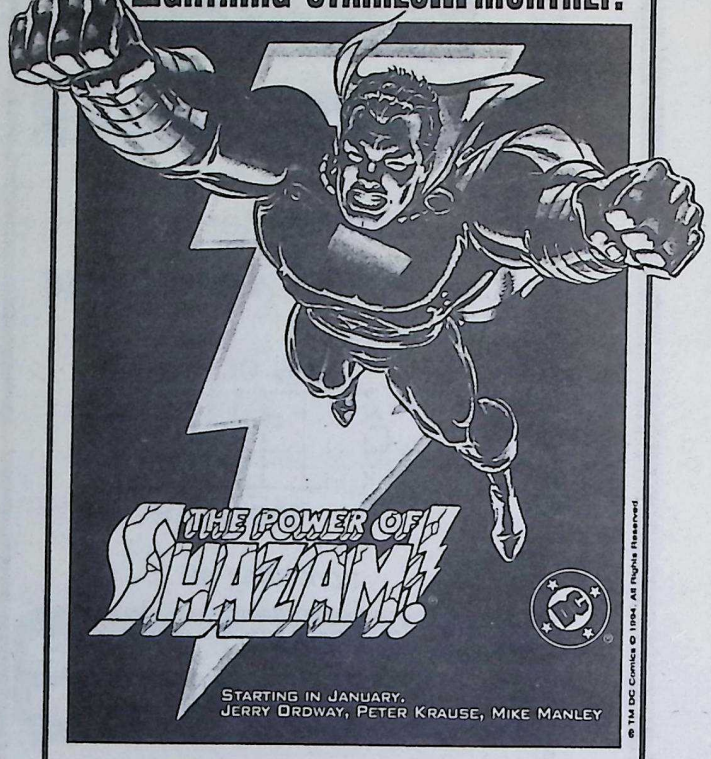

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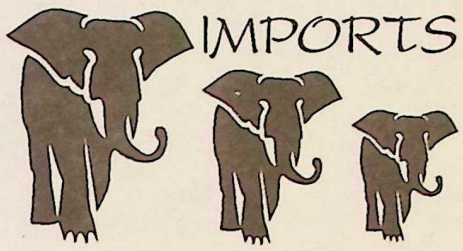

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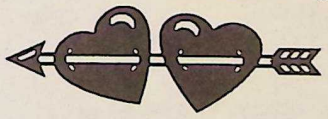

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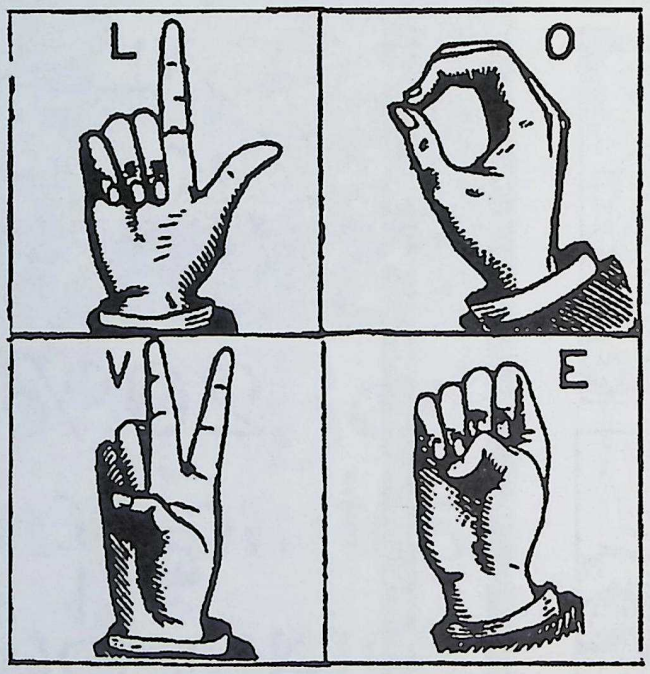

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